CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Tribe, MSU sign continued educational partnership

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Mississippi State University (MSU) recently held a signing ceremony establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between the two entities.

On Friday, December 4, 2009, Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and MSU President Dr. Mark Keenum signed a Memorandum of Understanding promoting the relationship between the Tribe - specifically, the Choctaw Tribal Schools - and MSU to strengthen cooperation and exchange in the fields of student, academic excellence, leadership programming, and civic agreement.

The ceremony was held at the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) Gymnasium in Choctaw in front of an audience of CCHS juniors and seniors.

"The signing today will be another milestone for the things we want to do in regard to higher education. Mississippi State is not a new partner, but continues a partnership in some of the things that we want to do. The relationship between the Tribe and MSU has always been good," said Denson.

The memorandum calls for the establishment of procedures and protocols through MSU's Global Leadership Continuum, specifically the areas of leadership development and civic engagement. Activities will be undertaken in consultation with MBCI's Division of Schools.

A 1974 graduate of MSU, Denson told the audience that the Tribe has partnered with MSU to provide successful programs such as the Young Guns leadership camps, nano technology projects and mentorship programs.

"We want to strengthen cooperation between Mississippi State University and the Tribe. I like to think of it as a cultural exchange program. The lesson that we need to know is this, cultural exchange is something we can offer to Mississippi State, but conversely, Mississippi State can offer to us the same type of programs," said Denson.

He then added that cultural exchange can be promoted within the state with not only the Choctaws but renown

.........see SIGNING, pg. 13

From left, Mississippi State University President Dr. Mark Keenum & Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Mi̱ko Beasley Denson sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Friday, Dec. 4 at the Choctaw Central High School gymnasium. The ceremony was attended by tribal officials & CCHS juniors & seniors.

Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, left, presents an authentic Choctaw basket to MSU President Dr. Mark Keenum.

Tribe holds Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held their Third Annual "Lighting of the Christmas Tree" ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, at Tribal headquarters in the Pearl River Community in Choctaw. Christmas carols were sung in English & Choctaw by Deidre Tubby, the Chahta Alla Youth Council & the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church. Mi̱ko Beasley Denson expressed his wishes for everyone to enjoy the holidays. After his remarks, he & First Lady Lena Denson (pictured right) lit up the tree. Afterwards, Santa Claus greeted the children & took pictures with them. Children in attendance were given gifts of fireworks, coloring books & crayons from Mi̱ko Denson. At the conclusion, the audience was treated to a food sampling by Bumpers Drive-In of Philadelphia.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
1945
Beasley Denson

FROM THE OFFICE OF MI̱KO BEASLEY DENSON

Mi̱ko Denson visits with John Billie after a discussion of Tribal affairs before the Thanksgiving Feast in Red Water on Nov. 23.

2009: YEAR IN REVIEW

Halito! The Holiday season is a time to be with loved ones, reflect on the past months, count our blessings and ready ourselves for the year to come. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look back at Tribal affairs in 2009.

Chahta moyyomaka̱ Nittak Hollo Chito Imakchokmahi Imahnilih!

FINANCE

The worst national economy since the Great Depression began late last year and throughout 2009 everyone was scrambling to minimize its impact. Our Tribe did relatively well compared to most tribes, states and businesses. What we were able to accomplish in these adverse conditions is encouraging.

My administration paid distributions to Tribal members on time. These distributions were made *without borrowing money*. We have made the payments required to service the Golden Moon debt and we have also paid down the principal. At the same time, we have streamlined our operations at the Resort, our Health Center, our non gaming enterprises and our government so that we are better prepared to endure future hard times and, when the nation's economy rebounds, we will be well positioned to take advantage of it. Our Tribe's operations are lean and efficient.

Paying down the debt incurred to build the Golden Moon is the first priority for our Tribe. Doing it in an economy like this is difficult. Like Mississippi and other states, our economy, prosperity and jobs depend largely on the strength of the overall U.S. economy.

According to experts, large revenue shortfalls are inevitable for all states in 2011 and 2012, even though, technically, the recession may be ending. This means less money will be spent by Resort patrons, which means there will be less revenue to fund services provided by Tribal government. In response to this, we have cut our Tribal government's budget by 15 percent. This saved us around $12 million and we did this without the furloughs and layoffs of government employees that most states used.

For a long time now our Tribe's financial matters have been dictated by the covenants in the loan agreement governing repayment of the debt incurred to build the Golden Moon. The interest on that debt is around $24 million every year and restrictions in the loan agreement prevent the Resort from making adequate payouts to Tribal government. I have been coast to coast looking for ways to restructure this debt so we can regain our financial self determination. It is critical to our Tribe's financial health for us to improve the terms and interest rates charged on this money by negotiating a better agreement.

We need new houses, schools and upgrades to our health care facilities, but freeing ourselves from the stranglehold this debt has on us is the wisest use of any additional revenue we are able to generate in this economy. Negotiating a better agreement will allow us to use the money we are paying in interest for those things once the debt is paid down.

Leading the Tribe in a good economy when coffers are full is easy to do; leading when times are hard, as they are now, is very difficult and requires creativity, commitment and the willingness to make tough decisions. A tough economy makes the cooperation of Council on big picture issues very important. As things are, there is no time or justification for bickering over petty disputes and minor issues. We have to keep our eyes on the big picture and work together to continue heading in the right direction. I appreciate the Tribal Council members who have helped in this regard, shown these qualities and been willing to make these tough decisions for the good of the Tribe as a whole.

In 2009 we saw the results of one of the tough decisions I had to make in 2008. Our plan to turn Pearl River Resort around is succeeding. We cut our losses by taking swift, decisive action at the right time and, as a result, our Resort is in a much better position than most others. More importantly, we stayed true to my pledge of putting Chahta First and did this without cutting a single Tribal member's job.

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CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2010 ISSUE IS MONDAY, JAN. 4, AT 12 NOON.

THE CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS IS NOW ONLINE AT WWW.CHOCTAW.ORG

POLITICS

It is my job to lead our Tribe through these tough times into a healthy future. I spent significant time in 2009 away from Choctaw looking for opportunities to save money and bring new sources of revenue back to the Reservation.

I travelled to Washington often to educate and lobby our Congressmen and the Chairmen of the Committees who oversee the federal funds we use to help pay for housing, education and health care. While we value economic self-sufficiency, my role as Tribal Mi̱ko is to maximize our resources and, as they say in Washington, “bring home the bacon.” Shokka nipa chokka isht alah.

It took a long time to repair our Tribe’s reputation in Washington, D.C. after our association with Jack Abramoff, but so much can be done there to improve life on the Reservation that it was time well spent. With one stroke of a pen, lawmakers can help or harm our future in big ways.

Through my visits, I have built good relationships with many important members of Congress like Thad Cochran and Daniel Inouye who are the ranking member and the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. They control the money. They have been strong allies of our Tribe. Senator Inouye visited us here in June. He is also helping us keep the unions out of our casinos.

Congress has been considering major health care and insurance reform all year, and every time I go to Washington, I press our elected officials to make sure they don’t forget about the health care needs of Choctaw and other tribes throughout the country. There is still a ways to go, but it appears Congress will add several provisions we want included to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

The increased funding for Indian health care is the direct result of our combined lobbying efforts in Washington, starting with the passage of the stimulus bill earlier this year. The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and this year’s Interior appropriations bill included significant increases, especially for contract support costs and indirect cost grants. The Interior appropriations bill provided nearly $400 million more than last year.

We will receive more than $7 million of that for contract support costs associated with ongoing contracts and grants. It's not full funding, but it will go a long way toward meeting some of our health care needs. This is a direct result of my and other Indian Country leaders’ meetings with Congress and the Obama Administration.

Obtaining additional funds for housing has also been a key priority of mine. Last year, after several meetings with Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Dorgan and House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, we were successful in getting Congress to reauthorize the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act.

This year approximately $600 million will be provided to Indian Country for housing needs. This is another significant increase over previous years, and is a good example of why Indian Country leaders need to keep the pressure on our representatives in Washington.

With respect to education, the Head Start program for Tribes received $10 million in 2009, and another $10 million will be made available for 2010. Of this amount, Choctaw will receive $2 million.

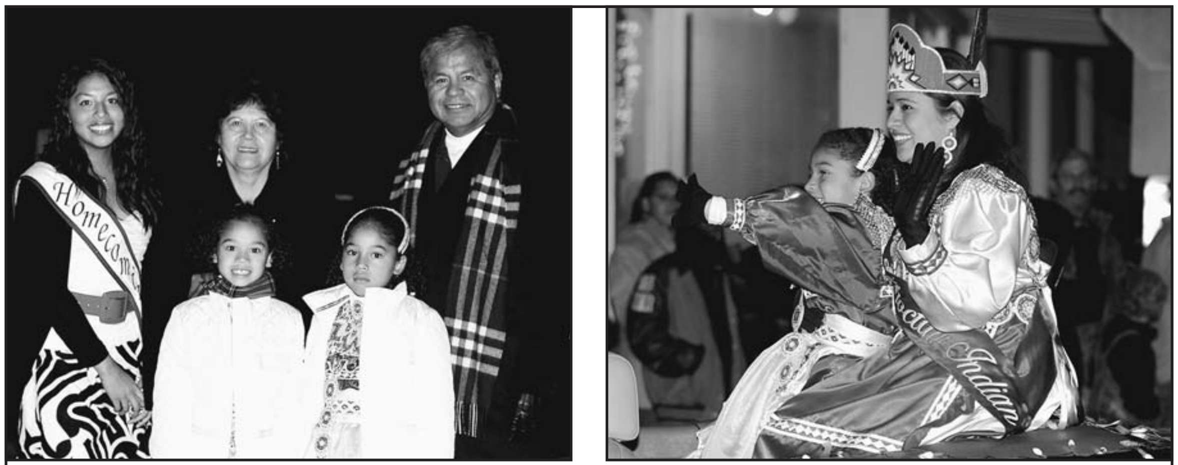
We also secured about $3 million in contract and indirect cost support for our Educational system. Again, this is not full funding based upon our level of need, but it is an increase over previous years. I expect full funding next year.

For Indian law enforcement, public safety and tribal justice needs federal budgets were increased which means

............**see LETTER, pg. 4**

Donates toys to Chahta Alla Osi campaign

Mi̱ko Beasley Denson was among many Tribal members who donated toys to this year’s Toys 4 Chahta Alla Osi campaign. The Choctaw Department of Public Safety sponsors a yearly basketball tournament as part of their Christmas toy collection drive. Toys were collected by the Choctaw Children & Family Services & distributed to foster children in their care. Pictured from left are Choctaw Department of Public Safety personnel, Director Ken Butler, Amanda Frazier, Shannon Willis, & Mi̱ko Denson.



LEFT, *Mi̱ko Denson’s family members, front row from left, granddaughters Shemah & Laliana Crosby; back row, granddaughter and CCHS Homecoming Queen Melody Denson, First Lady Lena Denson, & Mi̱ko Denson.* **RIGHT**, *Princess Famie Willis waves to the crowd attending the Carthage Christmas Parade.*

Mi̱ko Denson, Princess Willis participates in Carthage Christmas Parade

On Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, the City of Carthage held its annual Christmas Parade. Participating in the parade were Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson & 2009-2010 Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Cheyenne Willis.

Mi̱ko Denson, as a local dignitary, was among the first five entries in the parade, while the Princess was featured as one of the area’s gorgeous pageant winners.

Other Tribal entries in the parade included the Red Water 4-H Club & Standing Pine Elementary School. Thanks to all of the Tribal members & employees who participated in the parade & made sure the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians was well-represented!

LETTER .... continued from page three

more funding for our police department, detention center and courts.

I remember walking the halls of Congress earlier this year urging Senators and Members of Congress to include Tribes in as many sections of the Recovery Act as possible. It’s unfortunate that I have to remind many of them, but it's important to do so. In D.C., the squeaky wheel gets the grease, especially when the economy is bad, budgets are tight and so many organizations are competing for the same money.

NON-GAMING ENTERPRISES

One of my main goals is to make sure that we maintain a diverse economy. We all know that hard times for casinos make it even more important that we continue to diversify our economic base. If we can depend less on gaming revenue by finding more non-gaming sources, we will more easily weather tough times and reduce our debt quicker.

We have created a new holding company, Choctaw Construction Group. This holding company structure is being created to merge our 8(a) companies under one corporate board. It will make our operations more efficient and allow for greater oversight. The board will be made up of Tribal members with the talent, skills and education to move our companies to a new level.

We have made big changes to the management at IKBI and at AGT. Although AGT was performing well, there were too many complaints coming from Tribal members working in that organization and some people had to go. We hope that with the recent changes, AGT will be on track to be even stronger and more productive for the Tribe.

Similar progress is being made at IKBI. It continues to grow and expand and is on track to possibly create 3 or 4 new 8(a) companies. This type of energy, and that of our Tribal entrepreneurs, is what we want to see more of on the Reservation; Tribal enterprises and individuals broadening their opportunities and revenue streams.

EDUCATION

The Choctaw School System has come a long way. In the modern era, we have always had talented, committed teachers and staff but there was a lack of accountability. Administrators and teachers were not evaluated regularly and were left without goals and an overall sense of direction. The most important thing we can do to ensure our economic and cultural survival is properly educate alla moma.

It is more important than ever in this new economy where jobs are scarce and can be easily moved that all our children learn so that they can compete.

And while I have insisted on a renewed emphasis on cultural education it has been slow in coming. I want to create a school system that all of Indian Country will want to replicate. It won’t be easy but I am committed to it. I have demonstrated in other areas that I am willing to make tough choices to ensure we reach our goals and education is no different.

HEALTHCARE

After years of neglect, our Health Center’s infrastructure deteriorated to a point that was unsatisfactory. The Joint Commission, which regulates hospital care, placed our hospital on conditional accreditation and endangered the ability of the Tribe to be reimbursed by Medicaid and Medicare. This put us in a bad spot. Upgrades to the facility should have been made in the 1990s when capital improvements were easily funded. It took a lot of hard work and money to repair, but I am proud to report that our facility has regained full accreditation.

Like the Resort, Tribal government and our enterprises, the Choctaw Health Center has been streamlined and reorganized. In May, it was projected to be over $4 million dollars in debt. Changes had to be made. We reviewed personnel, services, practices and budgets and have successfully turned the operation around. We will have a projected $1.4M surplus this year - the first surplus we have seen in a long time.

Though it is not yet where we want it to be, health care on the Reservation is moving in the right direction. There are still many challenges we face at the Health Center but I am confident we will overcome them just as we have these. Yakoki to Josh Breedlove and the Health Center staff for their great work.

We want to encourage Tribal members to help improve our Health Center. Be sure to enroll in Medicare and/or Medicaid if you are eligible. Health Center staff can assist you in making this determination and completing the necessary paper work. When Tribal members sign up for these programs we are

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Mi̱ko Denson attends Tree Lighting ceremony

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Mi̱ko Beasley Denson attended the City of Meridian’s Tree Lighting ceremony at Dumont Plaza on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009, & presented a $50,000 check to focus on tourism in Meridian.

The donation is one of the stipulations of the compact the Tribe has with the State of Mississippi. Donations in previous years have gone to other local cities, such as Carthage & Philadelphia.

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
December 01 2009
PAY TO THE ORDER OF
City of Meridian
DOLLARS
Fifty thousand and no/100
Miko Beasley Denson
Non-Negotiable

Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, center, presents Meridian Mayor Cheri Barry, right, with a $50,000 check for tourism at the Meridian Tree Lighting ceremony. Also pictured is Tribal Administration representative Elsie Farve.

Mayor Cheri Barry presided over her first tree lighting as mayor. Christmas music was presented by the Grace Missionary Baptist Church Male Choir, directed by Minister Gene Tanksley, & by the Meridian High School Choir under the direction of Penney McLemore. The Carol Merrell Interpretive Dance Group performed a dance. Invocation was delivered by Dr. Debra Brewer to open the event

Mayor Barry gathered together a very special group of people to help with the tree lighting itself. The “Mayor’s Tree Lighting Crew”, children of the Parents Circle Support Group, included Jessica Smith, Scott Shoemaker, Cherish Wells, Kyle Johnson, Dalton Riley, Grant Goodman, & Melanie Gibbs. Two additional crew members were Chris McKinnon & Alecia Cromwell.

able to utilize these federal dollars to pay for care and it helps to stretch our limited Tribal resources.

Providing free health care to tribal members is a difficult task. The Federal government does not provide adequate funding for our operations and any assistance you can provide by enrolling in those programs will help better the quality of care we can provide.

HOUSING

I'm especially proud of our progress in the area of housing. As of November 2009, eighteen families have moved into new houses throughout the communities. By the end of December, we will have completed six more houses in Red Water, construction will have started on a new subdivision in Tucker and plans for a new subdivision for our elders, the disabled and Choctaw veterans will be well underway.

We plan to break ground on the thirty-two unit subdivision in mid 2010. It's being built with federal funds - about $4.4 million - which is a good return on the housing meetings I had in D.C. with our Senators Cochran and Wicker at the end of last year.

In 2010 we will see a great deal of activity on the housing front. We have a plan and funding to build 74 more houses in 2010. I will convene another Housing Summit to work with Tribal Members to identify the best financing options and continue the important work of making sure affordable, quality housing is available in each of our communities.

My goal is to reduce the housing backlog, build a middle class housing market on the Reservation and provide the necessary support for neighborhoods to thrive. We will continue to make steady progress and, where housing emergencies appear, we will take action to help those families.

CHAHTA FIRST

Chahta first is the guiding principal of my administration. The evidence is easy to see. Tribal members are in the highest positions in Tribal Government and are moving up into positions of authority. There are more Tribal members as CEOs or managers of our enterprises than ever before and there has never been a higher percentage of Tribal members working at Pearl River Resort.

This didn't happen by accident. Last year I issued a directive on Indian Preference and created the position of Administrative Assistant for Employment within my administration. This was to ensure that in all instances in which a qualified Tribal member can be placed in a Tribal job, it happens.

There are still many positions where we need the help of non-tribal members and there will probably never be a day when every position at every enterprise and in Tribal government is filled by a Choctaw, but we have come a long way and 2010 will see even more Chahta in management roles.

Tribal Members were less dependent on Tribal Government in 2009 than they were just a few years ago. As a Tribe, the Mississippi Choctaw have always valued self-determination. Self determination means that we are culturally and economically independent and self-reliant. Just as our Resort and government are moving away from control by the banks, Tribal members are moving away from the purchase order system.

For years, Tribal politics and economics were such that Tribal members often found themselves relying on purchase orders, not just in emergencies, but for everyday expenses and necessities. Like paying distributions from borrowed money, this practice is not sustainable or healthy for our Tribe. Purchase orders will always be available in the event of emergency or special circumstances, but Chahta are moving toward self sufficiency and the strength that comes from it.

CULTURE

Amid all the turmoil and uncertainty off the Reservation, one thing never changes. No matter what outsiders say about us or how others may try to define us, who we are is clear. There is only one Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and it is our history, art, language, dancing, dress, stories - all of these things combined - that make us who we are and tie us together as a Tribe and as a Family.

We are the descendants of those who would not relocate to Oklahoma. Our forefathers and mothers would not leave the Tribe and this land to which we belong. The Mississippi Choctaw are strong and resilient and this strength we receive from each other. It is a renewable resource and is another thing I am thankful for.

There were some sad moments for our Tribe over the last year. We lost some very special brothers and sisters. Some played important roles in the continuance of our culture and traditions like Bessie Allen, Bradley Williams, Wilbert Smith and Esterlene Isaac. Rev. Wilburn Williamson Sr. and Rev. Eugene Tubby helped guide us spiritually.

Others were our coaches, mentors and teachers like

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Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

submitted by Norma Bacon,
Executive Secretary

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Special Call Meeting, November 12, 2009

Resolution CHO 10-015, authorizing a distribution of Tribal funds, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-016, amending & approving the Choctaw Tribal School System Parent-Student Handbook & the Staff Handbook for the 2009-2010 School Year, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-017, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Division of Schools, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-018(B), approving a lease for mobile sites for Choctaw Housing Authority, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-019(B), amending & approving a Three-Year Timber Harvest Schedule, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-020, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management to accept funds from U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service Program Office, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-021(B), approving enrollments, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-022, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

.. continued from page five

Wilber Johnson, Glenn Bell (who loved Elvis more than anyone I have ever known) and Darwin Jim. And others did important work in our communities and government like Ted York, Andy “Catfish” Wilson, Lester Willis, Captain Mike White, Slick Thompson, Victor Morris, Adair King and Dennis Jim.

All of them, and the rest of the Chahta who passed in 2009, were loved by the Tribe. We will miss them all and the end of the year is a good time to remember these friends who left the Reservation to go to a better place.

The year 2009 marked the 40th anniversary of USET. I was so proud of our performance at the celebration in Seminole and I’m glad we had an opportunity to honor and thank the founders of USET, in particular our own Emmitt York and Phillip Martin. Our Tribe made a lasting impression and I was extremely proud of the way we represented Choctaw culture to the other tribes in attendance.

In 2009 we reclaimed Nanih Waiya in a beautiful ceremony and replaced Columbus Day with Nanih Waiya Day. Nanih Waiya Day will be celebrated on the 2nd Friday of August each year to commemorate our Mother Mound, the cultural and religious center of our Tribe.

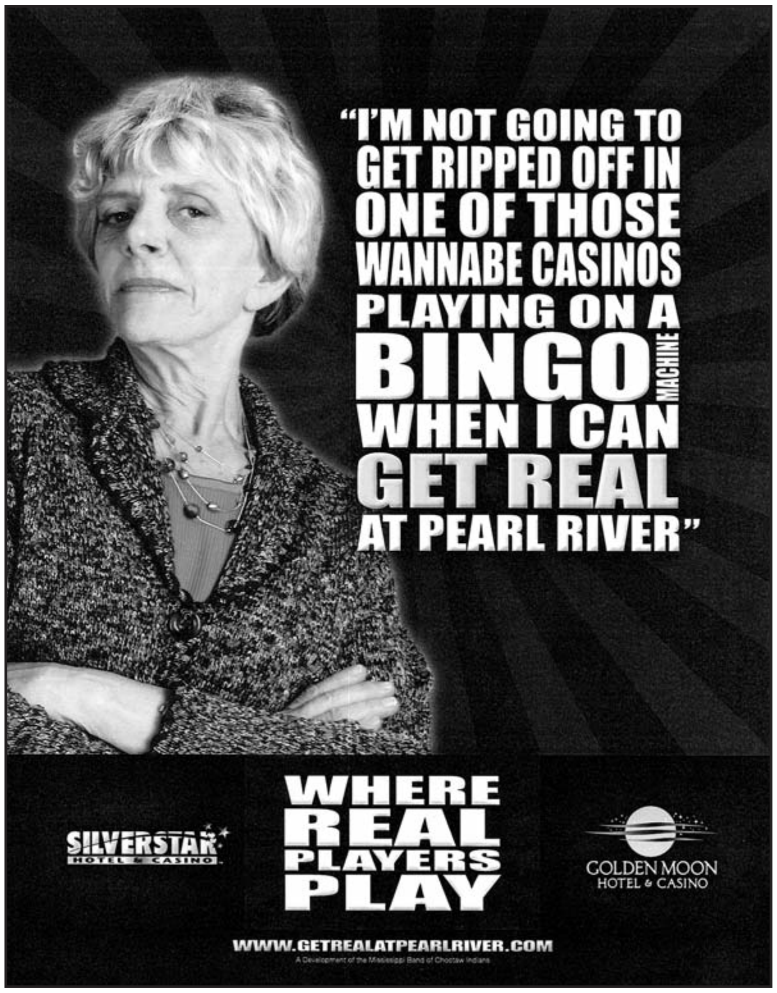
Mississippi Choctaw will not celebrate the genocide, disease, destruction and loss of land that Columbus brought to Indian Country. We will celebrate our culture and our sacred mound.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

There are a lot of challenges we have faced as a Tribe and a lot still to face. I am confident we will get past them. The Wellness Center still sits unused. It is costing us a lot of money in upkeep but I look at it as a challenge for us to unite around and solve as a team and we will do it in 2010.

Today there are over 10,000 illegal, unregulated slot machines in operation next door in Alabama. There were none three years ago. Even though I personally think you would have to be foolish to trust that they pay out fairly, people who would normally come to our Resort are visiting these halls and playing these machines.

The state of Alabama is trying to enforce its constitutional ban on gambling, but hasn’t been entirely successful so we have launched an aggressive and, so far, very effective ad campaign aimed at educating those patrons and winning them back.


“I’M NOT GOING TO GET RIPPED OFF IN ONE OF THOSE WANNABE CASINOS PLAYING ON A BINGO MACHINE WHEN I CAN GET REAL AT PEARL RIVER”
SILVERSTAR HOTEL & CASINO
WHERE REAL PLAYERS PLAY
GOLDEN MOON HOTEL & CASINO
WWW.GETREALATPEARLRIVER.COM
A Development of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

I feel very good about what we have accomplished so far and the situation we will be in when the economy rebounds. Tribal Government has been re-organized and streamlined, our enterprises are re-structured for greater efficiency and oversight, expenses at Pearl River Resort have been cut and the plan to turn it around is working. The struggle to rid ourselves of the debt we incurred to build the Golden Moon is another ongoing challenge, but we have made progress and will win that fight too.

I know that there are those who won’t agree with every decision I make as Mi̱ko. And I know that as Mi̱ko, I will not be able to make every Tribal member or Council member happy. But I will

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Gov. Barbour presents FY 2011 Executive Budget Recommendation

Shrinking revenues call for transformative government, cautious spending

Governor Haley Barbour today (Nov. 16) proposed a 12 percent budget reduction for most state agencies and called for the merger of some state agencies, universities and school districts in his Executive Budget Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2011.

The $5.5 billion state budget includes $370 million in stimulus funds that will cease after the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1. Gov. Barbour is required by state law to submit a budget to the Legislature.

“About this time last year, state revenues started showing the effects of the recession,” Gov. Barbour said. “What we’re seeing now is the full brunt of a soft economy, and state government must react accordingly. Clearly, business as usual won’t keep essential services operating, and it won’t work for the taxpayers. This budget crisis is real, and we cannot delay making difficult, long-term budget decisions.

“The October 2009 figures mark 14 consecutive months where we have missed our revenue estimate and the 11th consecutive month in which the state actually collected less money compared to the previous year. My first four years revenue exceeded the estimate every year, but now revenue is coming in far below the estimate made just a few months ago. So we must be prudent and conservative.”

The Governor’s budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2011 relies heavily on six main principles and funds state government accordingly:

- The most urgent need in Mississippi is to create more and better jobs. Where an agency plays a significant role in enhancing our job creation efforts, it is reflected in Gov. Barbour’s recommended funding for that agency.
- The same is true of revenue collection. Raising taxes during an economic downturn slows recovery and puts an unfair burden on Mississippi’s taxpayers, but we cannot let tax cheats deprive the state of revenue it is owed already. Gov. Barbour proposes increasing the budget of the Tax Commission, so it can hire additional auditors to collect money the state is already owed.
- Government’s first function is

see RECOMMENDATIONS, pg. 8

always be honest with you about the challenges we face and, above all, I will always put Chahta First.

The decisions I have to make are hard, but I welcome them. And I welcome your input. I am always looking for ways to improve our operations and provide better services to Tribal members. That is why in 2009 I visited every community listening to Tribal members and staying connected to each community. I will do the same in 2010.

Finally, let me say how thankful I am for my family - my wife Lena, our children and grandchildren. I am thankful for all my good friends in all the communities. I am thankful to be a Mississippi Choctaw. I am thankful that this Tribe has given me an opportunity to lead and put my thirty years of experience in business and government to its best use.

Our Tribe will succeed or fail as one and our energies should be directed toward finding ways to come together, bridging our differences, eliminating the debt we were left, creating new revenues, protecting our culture and, most importantly, leaving to our children and grandchildren a stronger Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Yakoki!

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

Unemployment rate soars to 9.7 percent

by DEBBIE BURT MYERS,
Managing Editor
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Neshoba County's unemployment rate rose to 9.7 percent in October, the eighth highest reported for the month in 40 years.

The jobless rate dipped to 8.4 percent in September after reaching a record high of 10.3 percent in August.

With 1,230 unemployed out of the county's 12,690 labor force, the number of people qualifying for food stamps has spiraled upward, officials said.

Mississippi's jobless rate tied with the national rate in October at 9.5 percent.

Neshoba, along with Amite County, posted the 22nd lowest unemployment rate for the month statewide.

Mayor James A. Young called October's high unemployment alarming.

"It is an alarming, eye-opening thing," Young said. "That's why we are working very hard to pull some jobs in as soon as we can. Hopefully, we'll have some very, very positive news on that front within the next few days. I think we are pretty close to getting some commitments."

The 9.7 percent October jobless rate increased from a year ago when the rate was at 5.9 percent for the month.

The highest October jobless rate in Neshoba County was reported in 1982 when it soared to 18.7 percent. That was followed in 1985 when it reached 12.5; followed in 1983 at 12.1 percent; in 1986 at 10.9 percent; in 1988 at 10.7 percent; in 1984 at 10.5 percent; and in 1975 at 9.8 percent.

see UNEMPLOYMENT, pg. 8

Henning (TN) Thanksgiving Dinner once again welcomes over 200 attendees

A perfect time to reflect on all of the people and things we appreciate.

The Third Annual Thanksgiving Feast Dinner, initiated by Mi̱ko Beasley Denson to be held in each of the respective Tribal Communities, once again yielded a success on Monday, Nov. 23 at the Palmer Turner Center in Henning, Tenn.

Angela Hundley, of the Tribal Administration, welcomed & thanked everyone for their attendance & assistance in participating in this year's event. She also recognized Mrs. Patsy Roach, lead coordinator of this year's event.

Ms. Patsy did a wonderful job in communicating with the community & welcoming everyone to be part of the event.

The crowd gave Ms. Patsy a wonderful & warm applause for all her hard work and coordinating of the event.

"I am very pleased with the turn out again this year. Everything has gone well for this event because of the people. Everyone was willing to help in some form or fashion. I appreciate everyone who came together & extremely thankful for all those that volunteered to cook some part of the wonderful meal our families were once again able to share together," commented Roach.

Henning Mayor Birssey & Bogue Chitto Tribal Councilman Sammy Clemmons Jr. where on hand & spoke about the importance of communication, collaboration, & ultimately a working relationship to attain a common goal for the community people.

Senna Willis & Shannon Morris, 2010 Census representatives, where on hand to educate those in attendance about the importance of "Being Counted" & to encourage everyone to be counted in the 2010 Census.

First Indian Baptist Church Pastor Obadiah Hendrick provided the crowd a warm, encouraging & spiritual message about the meaning of Thanksgiving before blessing the wonderful & plentiful meal.

Tribal members in Henning, Tenn. were treated to a Thanksgiving Feast at the Palmer Turner Center. Over 200 were in attendance.

United States
Census
2010

U.S. Census representatives Shannon Morris, left, and Senna Willis were on hand to provide information on the 2010 Census.

Shrinking revenues call for cuts

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT EDITORIAL

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The budget deficit projections are staggering, yet few besides the governor seem prepared to discuss the cuts that are inevitable if lawmakers are to balance the state budget in the years ahead.

Lawmakers are going to have to forget about the popularity contest and begin to make tough decisions.

Already some legislators are howling at Gov. Haley Barbour's dramatic but innovative proposal to reorganize state government in a $5.5 billion executive budget recommendation he presented Monday.

October marked 14 consecutive months where the state has missed its revenue estimate and the 11th consecutive month in which the state actually collected less money compared to the previous year.

Without substantial cuts like Barbour has proposed, Mississippi could be facing a $1.2 billion deficit by 2012.

Barbour has proposed a 12-percent budget reduction for most state agencies in 2011 and called for the merger of some state agencies, universities and school districts.

“If Haley Barbour tries to eliminate or consolidate any of the state's eight universities to save money, he's headed down a dead-end road,” the newspaper columnist Bill Minor opined.

Of course for tax and spend liberals, eight state universities are not a problem.

Rather than chopping Barbour's head off, what lawmakers ought to do is come up with proposals of their own and let's have a frank, robust discussion.

The governor's budget recommendation includes a sound plan to ease the state into more cuts for an anticipated $5.07 billion budget in 2012.

"My budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2011 contains tough decisions that must be made to ensure Mississippi provides essential services for its citizens while not breaking the bank now or crippling the state's financial future," Barbour wrote.

For example, the Mississippi Development Authority's “crucial role in creating new jobs” allowed it to escape with only a 5-percent cut. The Department of Corrections and Department of Public Safety would be cut 6 and 8 percent respectively.

The marquee emotional proposals are to reduce Mississippi's 152 school districts to 100 and consolidate Mississippi University for Women with Mississippi State University and Alcorn State University and Mississippi Valley State University with Jackson State University.

On the community and junior college level, Barbour finds savings through consolidating payroll, insurance, and purchasing operations of the 15 institutions and closing satellite campuses.

The budget provides several innovative ideas, such as privatizing wine sales, moving the Department of Banking and Consumer Finance to the Secretary of State, eliminating state funding for the Mississippi Technology Alliance and shifting resources for the mentally ill from institutional care to home and community based care.

Barbour would force local governments to become more efficient, eliminating $27 million in state subsidies to offset the cost of car tags, among other things.

Government anywhere has yet to do what most Americans have done and that is to make difficult choices and curb spending.

Raising taxes isn't the answer, so local governments like ours should begin considering innovations such as consolidation of services and the city and county school districts in order to lower taxes, not raise them.

The governor warns that if, for example, we fail to consolidate a university this year, we could be looking at a university closure next year.

Mississippians are making tough decisions every day. It’s time the Legislature and local government leaders - along with school boards - did the same.

With these cuts, when the national economy comes roaring back, Mississippi will be in a sound financial position to compete for more and better jobs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

.... continued from page six

ensuring the public’s safety. While nearly all agencies must experience spending reductions, Gov. Barbour is recommending that law enforcement programs or budgets take less of a spending reduction so they can continue their vital service of protecting Mississippi families.

• Education is Mississippi’s No. 1 economic development issue and No. 1 quality of life issue, and we must identify significant cost-savings that don’t diminish educational opportunities for our children. Now is the time to reduce administrative costs and for local districts to use their “rainy day funds” just as the state is drawing down on its Rainy Day Fund. Restructuring that will save money in 2012 and beyond must begin now.

• The State of Mississippi must establish budget priorities, invest in state government entities that generate revenue, and streamline government by seeking efficiencies and savings, while allowing maximum flexibility for agency heads. Gov. Barbour is recommending several specific actions that can be taken by areas of state government to improve efficiencies, and I believe there are many others where savings can be achieved if management is allowed to accomplish this. It is necessary to adopt these proposals for FY 2011 to fully realize the savings by FY 2012 when available funds continue to plummet.

Although Medicaid is an entitlement program, it is imperative that this agency achieve real cost-savings, along with the rest of state government. However, without certain changes in state law, Medicaid’s hands will be tied as to making substantial cost-savings to the current program. It’s time to allow Medicaid to achieve spending reductions without harming the quality of services provided to our citizens.

UNEMPLOYMENT

.... continued from page seven

The lowest October rate since 1970 came in 1973 when it was 3.1.

Since his administration began in July, Young has made two economic development trips to Washington, D. C., to meet with the state Congressional delegation and other national leaders.

A need for federal funding to expand the runway at the municipal airport was expressed by Young on his second visit to Washington last month.

Young updated the delegation and others on the ongoing negotiations with two industrial prospects he said are interested in locating in Philadelphia and a plan to expand the runway by 3,000 feet.

As previously reported in the Democrat, one industry could attract 500 to 700 jobs and involve a coatings operation in the former U.S. Motors building.

Another would create about 500 jobs over a five-year period, although the specifics of that project have not been revealed.

“We have a two to three-year window to put these projects together,” Young

..........continued next page

D U I

by James L. Lane, Jr., Supervising Attorney, Choctaw Legal Defense

Driving Under the Influence of a substance that impairs your ability to drive, or DUI, is illegal. You will not pass go. You will not collect $200. You will go directly to jail. Being in jail is not something most people want, especially during the holidays. Read this article. Learn this article. Live this article.

When a person drinks alcohol, he/she begins to fell a little funny. Some people get giddy, some hopelessly happy, while others are deeply depressed or maddening mad. Alcohol contains chemicals that, in combination with a person's body, cause these effects.

However, these are not the only affects of drinking alcohol (or using some other substance, such as medication-read the label). A lot of police officers tend to think (and the courts agree with them) that alcohol also makes a person's eyes red, speech slurred, and balance impaired. Oh, and for some reason they think that drinking alcohol makes a person smell like they have been drinking alcohol.

While it is not illegal to drink alcohol (unless you are a person who lives on reservation land - it is illegal to have/drink alcohol on tribal lands (expect the casino), it is illegal to drink alcohol, become impaired (or over the legal limit, which, by the way, is .10 for the Tribe and point .08 for the State), and then get behind the wheel of any vehicle. Note something... I did not say drive.

While it is illegal to drive while intoxicated or over the legal limit, it is also illegal to even "operate" a vehicle while in such a condition. "Operate" can mean something as simply having the keys in the ignition, even if the vehicle if off.

Now, many of you reading this think that since you just had a couple of beers (even an hour ago), that you are fine to drive. You may be wrong. You may end up going to jail.

Alcohol affects everyone differently. Depending on your body type, your sex, the amount of time that has passed since you drank, and other factors, such as weight and ethnicity (but not eye color), your body may register above the legal limit with just one beer.

While everyone wants everyone else to have a great and Merry time this holiday season, everyone also wants to remain alive and jail free. If you drink, then do so responsibly (as the commercials tell you). Your life, or someone else's life, could depend on it.

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said.

Board of Supervisors President Obbie Riley also expressed concern about the rising unemployment rates.

He recalled back in the early 1980s when the jobless rate here topped 18 percent.

"I got laid off from U.S. Motors in 1982 and then again in the spring of 1983," Riley said. "That was the spring board for me pursuing a military career. I remember that very well. Times were bad then for entry-level people applying for jobs. It was pretty tough."

Riley was with the Coast Guard for more than 22 years.

He remains, however, optimistic about the local economy.

Officials here are "vigorously pursuing" new industry, he said.

"We are seeing some promises. There are a lot of pieces that have to fall in place. We are pursuing new industries, two of which are showing some real promise."

Riley said officials here also hope to implement a strategy to work with existing business and industry to give them some additional avenues to sustain and grow their operations.

Only 20 counties in Mississippi posted jobless rates less than or equal to the state's October 2009 rate of 9.5 percent.

Unemployment rates increased over the month in all but five counties.

Fifty-five counties reported double-digit rates for the month with six counties reporting rates greater than or equal to 15 percent.

October jobless rates in counties that adjoin Neshoba:

Winston, 15.8 percent.
Kemper, 12.3 percent.
Lauderdale, 9.5 percent.
Newton, 8.8 percent.
Scott, 6.7 percent.
Leake, 9.8 percent.
Attala, 12.8 percent.

With food-stamp use at record highs nationally and climbing every month, a program once scorned as a failed welfare scheme now helps feed one in eight Americans and one in four children.

Choctaw Community Fund underway

CCF 2010
CHOCTAW COMMUNITY FUND
THROUGH SHARING & CARING

The Choctaw Community Fund (CCF) is currently underway for the 2010 campaign. The Fund offers an opportunity for an employee of the Tribe or one of its entities to give a little back to those still in need within the Choctaw community, as well as supporting those service organizations that assist individuals residing on or off the reservation.

The Choctaw Tribal Council established the CCF in 1985 to address unmet needs of Choctaw youth. In 1988, the program was expanded to include not only the youth, but the elderly as well. In 1994, the Tribal Council voted to include the disabled as a target population.

The CCF budget is based on proposals submitted to the Mi̱ko & the Tribal Council Committee on Community Development & approved by the full Tribal Council by resolution. Proposals for 2010 projects are due during the month of January 2010.

The 2009 beneficiaries included Elderly Services, School Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Early Childhood Education, Youth Recreation, Scouts, 4-H, Children & Family Services, Fire & Flood Disaster Relief, Health, Tribal Language Program, Veterans Day Pow Wow, Census Awareness, Youth Opportunity Program, Veterans Day Parade, Choctaw Residential Center, Choctaw Tribal Teen Court, American Diabetes Association (Mississippi Affiliate), Red Cross, & the Salvation Army.

As an incentive, those who donated a minimum set amount were eligible to participate in a drawing for prizes on Dec. 16 at the Tribal Council Hall in Choctaw.

Winners of the CCF con-

....see CCF DRIVE, pg. 10

Drawings for contributors and coordinators for the 2010 CCF were held Dec. 16 at the Tribal Council Hall in Choctaw.

811900 NL.qxd:811900 NL.qxd 12/29/09 2:15 PM Page 10

CCF DRIVE

continued from page nine

tributors drawing are listed below:

Elaina Fielder - Penn's Meal Gift Card;

Carla Martin - Canal Place Movie Package;

Tasheena John - Main St. Junction Meal Card;

Sylvia Stephens - Wal-Mart $30 Gas Card;

Holly Denson - Old Mexico Dinner Certificate;

Scottie Irons - Dancing Rabbit Round of Golf;

Sylvia Johnson - Canal Place Movie Package;

Jerrod Thompson - Penn's Meal Gift Card;

Ann Jim - Wal-Mart $30 Gas Card;

Rebecca Wilson - Main St. Junction Meal Card;

Donna Anthony - Hibbett's Sporting Goods ($50);

Loretta Williams - Canal Place Movie Package;

Karla Keats - 16-piece Home Dishware Set;

Judy Gibson - Old Mexico Dinner Certificate;

Paula Pankratz - Wal-Mart $30 Gas Card;

Fannie Willis - Canal Place Movie Package;

Krisan Williams - Williams Bros. $50 Gift Certificate;

Randall Shoemake - Dancing Rabbit Round of Golf;

Jeanne Vares - Dinner for 2, Pearl River Resort;

Roy Jim - MBCI Logo Jacket;

Dustin Wallace - Dancing Rabbit Golf Umbrella;

Susan McNair - Wal-Mart $50 Gift Card;

Gwendolyn Bozeman - Williams Bros. $50 Gift Certificate;

Edward McMillan - Stanley 40-piece Tool Set;

Shannon Willis - Choctaw Stickball Sticks;

Royce Billy - Hibbett's Sporting Goods;

Lewanna Otter - Williams Bros. $50 Gift Certificate;

Brandy Hickman - 2-piece Fishing Rod Combo;

Marion Mitchell - Dancing Rabbit Golf Shirt;

Jerritt Gibson - Wal-Mart $50 Gift Card;

Charlotte Duncan - Beaded Key Chain;

Janny Straghan - Athletic Action $50 Gift Certificate;

Melanie Stephens - Dinner for 2, Pearl River Resort;

Nandria McMillan - Lowe's $50 Gift Card;

Tim Steve - Williams Bros. $50 Gift Certificate;

Raquel Farmer - Duraband Home Music System;

Kathy Barnett - MBCI Pool Party Pass;

Troy Chickaway - Wal-Mart Gift Card;

Martha Clower - Williams Bros. $50 Gift Certificate;

Lovia Echos - Beaded Lanyard;

Karen Ben - Hibbett's Sporting Goods ($50);

W. Dan Isaac - Lowe's Gift Card;

Brooke Sibley - Dinner for 2, Pearl River Resort;

Deborah Lewis - Wal-Mart $50 Gift Card;

Nancy Willis - Williams Bros. $50 Gift Certificate;

Linda Chickaway - Wal-Mart VISA Card;

Audriana Tubby - 4-piece Bead Set;

Melinda Ben - MBCI Pool Party Pass;

Wendy Jackson - Coleman 70-qt. Ice Chest Cooler;

Terry Bell - Wal-Mart $50 VISA Card;

Sarah Dixon - Portable Basketball Goal;

Berdie Steve - Beaded Salt and Pepper Shaker;

Cynthia Hatcher - RCA Portable DVD Player;

..........continued next page

PHILADELPHIA CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT WINNERS

MAYOR'S AWARD - BEST OVERALL FLOAT
Pearl River Resort

BOGUE CHITTO DEVELOPMENT

CIVIC CATEGORY WINNER
Bogue Chitto Development Club

WAS A MIRACLE

RELIGIOUS DIVISION WINNER
Spirit of Life Christian Center

YOUTH DIVISION WINNER
Choctaw Tribal Schools' Occupational Training Center

Benjamin Stephens - Tom Tom GPS System;

Randi Williams - Athletic Action $100 Gift Certificate;

Hugh Isaac - Williams Bros. $100 Gift Certificate;

Trudy Jimmie - Choctaw Basket;

Ricky Anderson - Mongoose Boy's Bike;

Judy Chickaway - Mongoose Girl's Bike;

Peggy Crowe - Choctaw Basket;

Hazel Willis - Nintendo DS Lite;

Patrick Cooper - Canon Powershot Digital Camera;

Landon Jim - Candle Warmer.

Winners of the CCF coordinators drawing are listed below:

Linda Alex - Canal Place Movie Package;

Kendall Grisham - Wal-Mart $30 Gas Card;

Theron Denson - Dancing Rabbit Golf Round;

Thomas Waiter - MBCI Logo Jacket;

Vickie Singletary - Canal Place Movie Package;

Richard Isaac - Wal-Mart $30 Gas Card;

Candie Jimmie - 2-piece Fishing Rod Combo;

Maria Farmer - Dancing Rabbit Golf Round;

Melinda Gibson - Wal-Mart $50 Gift Card;

Trish Phillips - Lowe's $50 Gift Card;

Madge Isaac - Williams Bros. $50 Gift Certificate;

Kathie Henry - Dancing Rabbit Golf Umbrella;

Martha Ferguson - Athletic Action $50 Gift Certificate;

Margaret Henry - Wal-Mart $50 Gift Card;

Greta Monroe - Williams Bros. $50 Gift Certificate;

Carol Willis - Dancing Rabbit Golf Shirt;

Verna Williamson - Hibbett's Sporting Goods ($50);

L'Ree Thompson - Lowe's Gift Card;

Tammy Wishork - Athletic Action $50 Gift Certificate;

Angela Fulton - MBCI Beaded Medallion;

Bernadine Dixon - Coleman Ice Chest Cooler;

Jo Billie - Wal-Mart $50 VISA Card;

Janet Waiter - MBCI Beaded Lanyard;

Cheriena Ben - Dinner for 2, Pearl River Resort;

Fannie Williamson - MBCI Free Pool Party Pass;

Rowena York - Wal-Mart $50 VISA Card;

Sam Valentine - Portable DVD Player;

Olivia Evans - Pearl River Spa Package;

Allen Meely - Williams Bros. $100 Gift Certificate;

Glenda Winstead - MBCI Choctaw Basket;

Clarinda Mingo - Garmin GPS Unit;

Thallis Lewis - Nintendo DS Lite.

For more information about submitting proposals for the use of Community Fund donations, contact the Member Services Program at the Choctaw Tribal Office, 601-650-1538.

Come join us.....

Sunday
10:00 am

Wednesday
6:30 pm

Spirit of Life Christian Center

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Pastor Thomas Ben

601-389-5446
Visit us on the web at:
SPIRITOFLIFECHOCTAW.ORG

Woodlin Lewis, dedicated Choctaw Cultural Preservationist, retires

On November 6, 2009 Woodlin Lewis (pictured left), Cultural Researcher for the Choctaw Tribal Archives, announced his retirement. Woodlin's knowledge of Choctaw culture and history is immeasurable. He will be greatly missed.

As an expression of appreciation to Woodlin's service to the tribe, the Choctaw Cultural Preservation Program would like to reprint the following article from the 2000 Choctaw Indian Fair Program.

Retirement gifts from Choctaw Preservation Program
Roseanna Thompson, CPP Director, presents Woodlin Lewis' wife, Thallis, a Choctaw shirt and bead set.

WOODLIN LEWIS, DRUM-MAKER

If we could go back in time a hundred years and look at the tools of an American Indian drum-maker, they would be similar to the tools used today by drum-maker and Tribal Councilman Woodlin Lewis of the Pearl River Community.

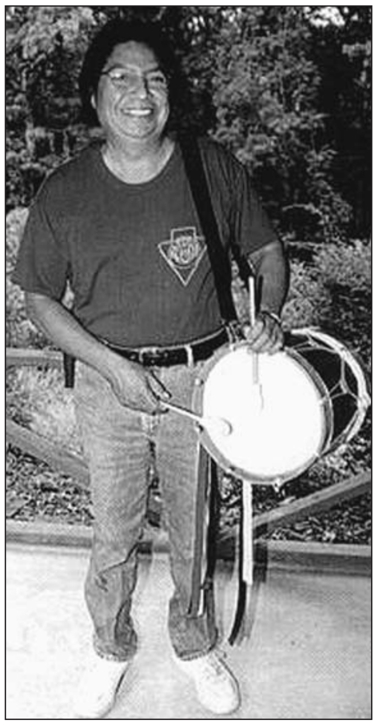
Woodlin is a 1964 graduate of Pearl River High School, now known as Choctaw Central High School. He was a member of the first senior class (17 members) to graduate in the newly constructed school which, for the first time in Tribal history, offered high school classes to Tribal members. Prior to this time, high school students had to attend school out-of-state - usually in Oklahoma.

Woodlin has been crafting drums for over 30 years using this centuries-old method. He was taught drum-making by Barney Wesley, a tribal member from Mashulaville, a small community near Macon, Mississippi.

Woodlin recalls hearing that many families owned drums in the early 1900's, whereas today, most drums are owned by schools, stickball teams and dance groups. Before the availability of telephones, drumbeats were the only means of "long distance" communication. The identity of each community was determined by their specific drum beat.

Messages, such as calling for a community gathering, or announcing sickness or death, were quickly transmitted. Drumbeats announced imminent stickball games as the combined drumbeats of the stickball players, who

............see LEWIS, pg. 12



Drum-maker Woodlin Lewis
Drum-maker and member of the tribe's 16-member tribal council, Woodlin demonstrates a recently completed drum.

LEWIS .... continued from page eleven

were walking with their families to playing fields, could be heard by local residents long before the group came into view.

On the reservation today, drums are an essential accompaniment of traditional Choctaw dances. The drummer leads the dancers to the dance grounds, and when the dancing is complete, the dancers follow the drummer off the grounds.

Then as well as now, the forest provided the two most important raw materials used in drum-making: wood and deerskin. Woodlin, when searching for the ideal log, feels most fortunate when he finds a hollow log of black gum, sourwood or pine. Finding a usable hollow log saves hours of wood chisel labor, that would normally be required to remove the center of the log.

Choctaw drums are patterned after the marching drum used in the American Revolutionary War, in which some Choctaws participated.

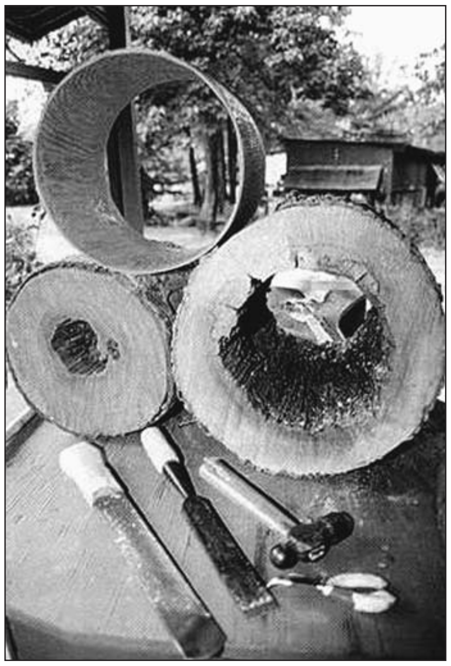
A drum is very durable and can last up to ten years before it requires rebuilding. Drums must be handled with care. The deerskin covering must always remain dry because dampness produces poor sound quality.

As a maker of blowguns and darts, rabbit sticks, stickball sticks and balls, tom-toms, women's beaded feather fans and beaded headbands, Woodlin can single-handedly supply a craft shop. Woodlin also performs as a Tribal chanter with a voice that sounds much like that of his father, the late Albert Lewis.

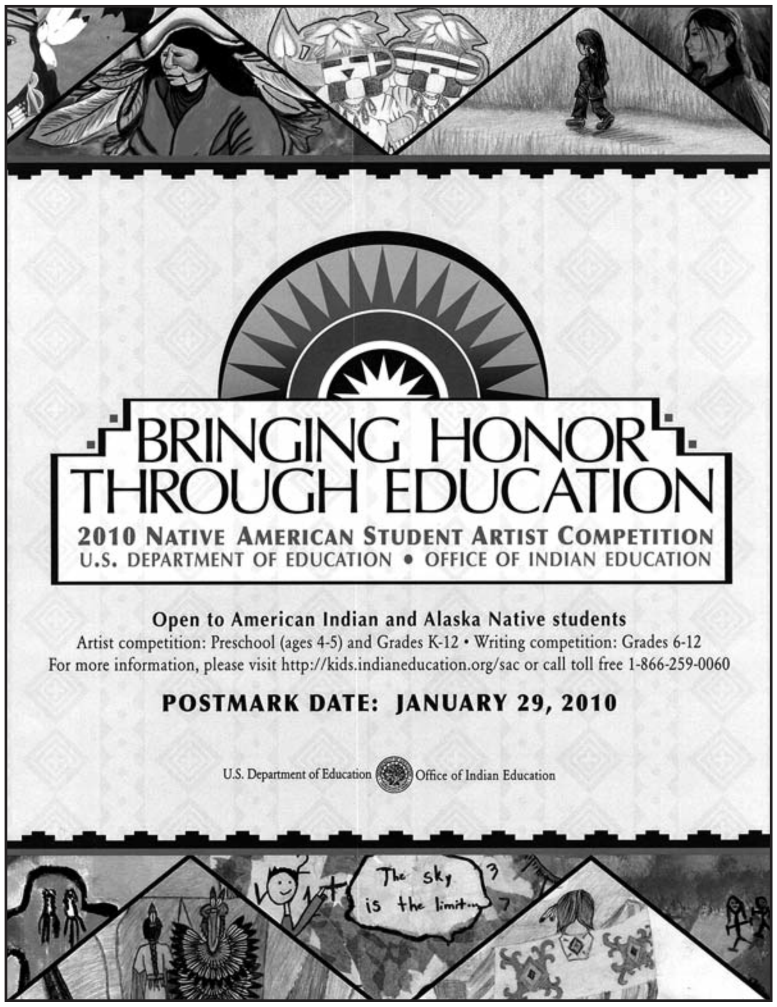
Woodlin and his family are dedicated to preserving cultural traditions and keeping alive the memory and influence of their ancestors.

Woodlin and Thallis Lewis' grandson, Albert, bears the names of both grandfathers, Bob Bell and Albert Lewis. Now, Albert, at age 14, performs as a drummer in the tradition of his grandfather Bob Bell.

Getting It Right
An adjustment is being made to the snare on the bottom of the drum. The top and bottom rims are made of durable hickory wood.



Raw Materials for Drum Making
The tools shown are a rasp, wood chisel, tack hammer and clippers. The completed cylinder on top is made from sassafras wood.


The sky is the limit…

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Artist competition: Preschool (ages 4-5) and Grades K-12 • Writing competition: Grades 6-12
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POSTMARK DATE: JANUARY 29, 2010

U.S. Department of Education Office of Indian Education

Eighth Annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament winners announced

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held one of two FIRST LEGO League Tournaments in Mississippi on Nov. 21, 2009. FIRST LEGO League is a hands-on, interactive engineering program that captivates students' interest in science and technology as they learn problem solving and team building skills. Over 130 students from the Choctaw Tribal Schools participated in this year's event.

Movers and Shakers team members prepare for a robot performance match.

The following awards were presented.

TEAM SPIRIT AWARD

You know they are coming before you see them. Their excitement and enthusiasm for science and engineering catches you off guard every time. You may not know the team name or number, but you can describe what they look like and what they do. Everyone knows them! They rock the house, and they make science and technology fun, accessible, and rewarding.

The Team Spirit Award was presented to CURE IV from Conehatta Elementary School. Team members include Albert Charlie, Kurtland Williamson, Trinesa Isom, Syndie Ferris, Kambree Chickaway, Ammery Smith, Emily Shoemake, Shonika Billy, Shaya Chickaway, Emerson Billy, Devon Mingo, Ciera Johnson, Beeman Farmer, and coaches Elijah Ben, Cassidy Nickey, Christianne Gibson, and Donovan King.

JUDGES' AWARD

Many high quality teams don't exactly fit the mold for an existing award, but

..........continued next page

SIGNING .... continued from page one

Mississippi authors such as Eudora Welty and John Grisham, entertainers B.B. King, Elvis Presley, and Marty Stuart, and athletes Walter Payton, Archie Manning and Brett Favre.

"These are people that have culture and we need to understand it. And yes, we want them to understand our culture as well," Denson said.

Denson also added that when he was in high school, Tribal leadership would always tell students to earn their high school diplomas. Times have changed.

"We don't need to say that anymore. We need to tell you that you need a college degree or some kind of vocational program. I'm not all academic, I'm also vocational, but you got to understand business. Mississippi State University can enhance our thoughts and let us use our mental capacity to support ourselves and our lifestyles for the rest of our lives. I want you to take advantage of this opportunity," said Denson.

"I appreciated the opportunity to visit with Mi̱ko Denson and students and faculty at Choctaw Central High School for this special event," Keenum said. "Our ties already are strong, and the agreement will enable us to enhance this relationship in the years to come."

Also in attendance were Roger Anderson, Conehatta Tribal Council representative and chairman of the Tribal Council Committee on Education; CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle; and the CCHS Student Council Executive Board. Joshua Thomas, president of the Student Council Executive Board, served as emcee.

CCHS juniors & seniors with Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, MSU President Dr. Mark Keenum & Roger Anderson, Conehatta Tribal Council representative & chairman of the Tribal Council Committee on Education.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is the Magnolia State's only federally recognized tribe. With headquarters at the Pearl River community near Philadelphia, the Tribe has more than 10,000 members.

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nonetheless deserve. Some teams have a story that profoundly sets them apart in a unique way. Sometimes, a given award is just too close to call.

The Judges' Award was presented to The Native Pilots from Standing Pine Elementary School. The Native Pilots team members include Kara Edwards, Andreana Morales, Angelina Morales, Dylan Ben, Betty Mingo, Candace Jefferson, Jaydre Bell, Skylar Comans, Jayasri Mitch, Brias Bell, and coach Donna Anthony.

COACH'S AWARD

Many teams reach significant milestones of success thanks to their close relationship with an adult mentor. The Coach's Award was presented to Donna Anthony for her wisdom, guidance, patience, and devotion that were most evident in her team's discussion with the judges.

TEAMWORK AWARD

Teamwork is necessary to succeed in FIRST LEGO League, and is the key ingredient to any team. The Teamwork Award was presented to Bogue Chitto Elementary School's Generation NXT who best demonstrated extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit, exceptional partnership, the utmost respect for their own teammates, and support and encouragement of fellow teams.

Generation NXT team members include: Relissia Ray, Raina King, Gayueze Morris, Brandis Johnson, Taylor Morris, Tara Willis, Thunder Frazier, Canaan Nickey, Camry Mingo, and coaches Thomas Saunders, David Pope, Renata Morris, and Shayla Chickaway.

PROJECT PRESENTATION AWARD

The Project Award was presented to Bogue Chitto Elementary School's Big Rigs for their quality research, innovative solutions and creative presentation which best reflected an in-depth understanding of the various scientific disciplines and issues involved in the Challenge Project.

The Big Rigs team members include Peyton Bell, AshRhonda Robinson, Nikkita Mingo, Ashley Henry, Jade Willis, Nicolas Nene, Ethan King, Rayna Henry, and coaches Thomas Saunders, Lena Tucker, and Mahli Saunders.

ROBOT DESIGN AWARD

A winning design is predicated on four distinct elements, innovative design, robust design, and innovative and robust programming; which in conjunction with one another makes a robot and its team of designers, programmers and builders stand out.

The Robot Design Award was presented to the Clean Air Heads representing Pearl River Elementary School. Clean Air Heads team members include Josiah Monk, Julian "Bryce" Billy, Robert York, Lattoriah "Tori" Johnson, Nicholas McMillan, Montel Jordan, Hannaniah Tubby, Breanna Isaac, Hannah Williams, Emilee Thames, Pagan Jackson, Justice Fielder, Hallie Denson, and coaches Mike Ragland and Rashay Smith.

ROBOT PERFORMANCE AWARD

The Robot Performance Award was presented to the Standing Pine Road Warriors representing Standing Pine Elementary School. The Standing Pine Road Warriors' robot achieved the best score on the competition field and did not win the Champion's Award.

Standing Pine Road Warriors' team members include Daiandre Lewis, Aleyah Sockey, Dakota Willis, Maegan Willis, Randale York, Yopolakiyo Solomon, Lillia Arreola, Keyena Denson, Daisy Joe, Ichukash Solomon, Cody Stoliby, Jalissa Willis, Allen Sockey, and coaches Jessica Butler and Meredith Sanders.

see LEGO TEAMS, pg. 14

LEGO TEAMS .... continued from page thirteen

CHAMPION'S AWARD

The Champion's Award is the most prestigious award that any team can win. The Champion's Award celebrates the ultimate success of the FIRST mission and FLL values. It measures how the children inspire and motivate others about the accessibility, excitement, and wonders of science, technology, encouragement, and continued gracious professionalism.

The winning team receives the honor of serving as a valued role model for FIRST and the FIRST LEGO League Program. Teams considered for the Champion's Award are those that perform well in technical and team performance categories, which are equally weighted. Judges decide which team will receive this most coveted award.

The Champion's Award was presented to Choctaw Central Middle School's Transporters. Transporters' team members include DeMarquis Wilson, Malcolm York, Allandra York, Davion Thomas, Reanna Hickman, Simon Isaac, Jalique Williams, Jada Sockey, Trinity Tubby, Christian Deon, Ozzie Willis, and coaches Paula Pankratz and Mike Moorehead.

A special thanks to our volunteers who donated their time, energies, and talents to the Choctaw Tribal Schools' FIRST LEGO League Tournament. Your contributions will have a lasting impact on our "engineers of tomorrow".

PRES students create rock candy

Students in Mrs. Carlyle & Mrs. Steve's fourth grade science class at Pearl River Elementary have been learning about solids, liquids & gases. The students grew sugar crystals - creating a solid from a liquid - by boiling sugar water & letting it cool, thus creating rock candy that the students enjoyed eating! Pictured above are Elisah Keats Jimmie, DeShane Farmer, Darien Tubby, Justin Johnson, Jacob Billy, LaChrisha Williams, Truvon Willis, Camery Bell, & Jaylyn Tubby.

Studies chemical, physical change

Mrs. Carlyle & Mrs. Steve's 4th grade science class at Pearl River Elementary has been studying chemical & physical change. Students Nicholas Williams, Hailey Williams, Kristen Clemmons, Keona Wilson, Damien Mesteth, Dayton Bell, Justin Tubby, & Autumn Lewis are displaying origami fish & birds they created to show physical change in paper.

Pearl River Elementary Students honored

Pearl River Elementary School students who scored Proficient or Advanced on the Spring 2009 MCT2 assessment were honored by the Pearl River Development Club with certificates and $10 gift cards. Pictured, front row from left, are Jennard Bollin, Katarina McMillan, Dana Briscoe, Darien Tubby, LaChrisha Williams, Kelsy Billie, Reyes Willis, Daniel Jordan; second row, Jazalynn Lewis, Abby Billy, Trinity Steve, Shayla Chickaway, Lauren Ben, Emilee Thames, Hananiah Tubby, Emily Scobee, Isiah Billy, Jerale Willis, Trajan Fielder, Asa Keats Jimmie; back row, Josiah Monk, Thomas Charlie, Damien Mesteth, Daylon Ben, Robert York, Dylan Alex, Bryce Billy, Montel Jordan, Adonis Willis, Kacy Bell, Justice Fielder, Dakota Kennedy, & Nicholas McMillian. Not pictured are Taylor Griffin, Brayton Jim, Tyson Griffin, Breanna Isaac, & Lattoria Johnson.

WE ARE THE WORLD

RWES hosts Christmas Program

Red Water Elementary School held its Christmas Program on Monday, December 7, 2009, using the theme "We Are The World." ***LEFT****, second & third graders performing Rockin' Stix.* ***RIGHT****, Soloist singing verses to We Are The World were Richanna Sockey, Peyton Willis, Sharissa Jefferson, Kristin Josh, & Daelin Cotton.*

Red Water Elementary students & staff all participated in a Walk for Diabetes on Nov. 24, 2009.

PICTURED LEFT, *Congratulations to Reann Meely, third grade student at Red Water Elementary School! She was the student with the closest guess to the number of cotton balls it took to cover up Frosty the Snowman. Reann estimated that there were 740 cotton balls used on Frosty. The actual number was 727. Madonna Watkins sponsored the contest as a way for students to practice their estimation skills.*

RWES holds storyboard competition on Nov. 23

Best of Fair winner was Tiara Cotton for her reading board on the book, The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything.

1st place winners, from left, Natory Tsosie, Tiara Cotton & Kevin Josh.

2nd place winners, from left, Iverson Allen, Samantha Wilson & Kristin Josh.

3rd place winners, from left, Armando Lopez & Sawyer Tubby. Not pictured is Cassandra Willis.

SPES students enjoy fire truck tour

Allen Meely from the Choctaw Fire Department visited Pre-K students at Standing Pine Elementary. He demonstrated fire equipment used, taught fire safety & gave students a tour of the fire truck. Corporal Scott from the Choctaw Police Department also visted. His presentation included how policemen help you & the community & gave students a tour of a police car.

RWES attendance trophy winners

Red Water Elementary third graders captured the attendance trophy for the month of November with an ADA rate of 97.65 for the month. Congratulations to Myric Anderson, Sheyann Bell, Justine Isaac, Keri Jim, Errol John, Japheth John, Reann Meely, Brianna Mitch, Rayden Sockey, Kaleb Solomon, Catherine Tubby, Camryn Vivians, Malayiah Willis, Mercedez Wilson, & Toklow York. The third grade is taught by Mrs. Tammy Keen.

Tutor Rivers prepares students for Algebra I

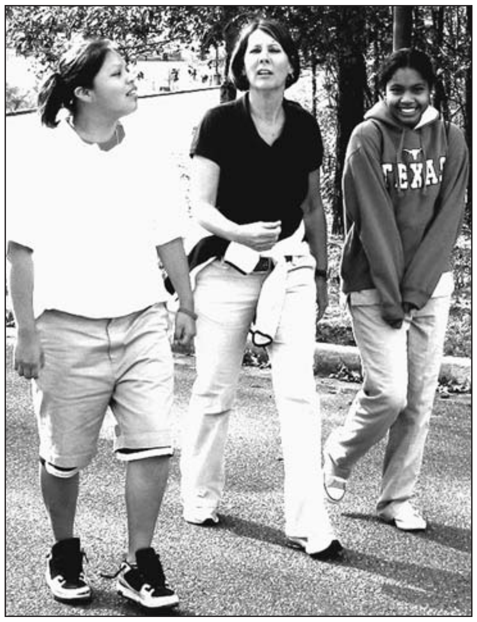
Richard Rivers (pictured center) is the Algebra I tutor for Choctaw Central High School again this year. He primarily works with the Algebra I classes & teachers to help wherever needed. He helps students who are falling behind & those whose scores show a potential for having a problem with Algebra I.

Students, teachers & tutor are working toward the Algebra I state test next April. They have high hopes of not only passing the test but to have a high number of students score proficient or advanced. All students must pass this test in order to receive a diploma.

Rivers is also working with those students who were unable to pass last years' state test. They retake the test at two to three month intervals during the school year. Teachers & tutors hope to have all these students pass the test during the year.

Right, RWES inducts new Beta members

Red Water Elementary School held its Beta Induction on Dec. 10, 2009. Inducted were four new members. Pictured front row from left are new members Selena John, Richanna Sockey, Aaleyiah Willis, Megan Sockey; back row, members Alexis King, Kristin Josh, Onedaro Dixon, Sharissa Jefferson, & Karl Wilson.



Walkers at Tucker Elementary School included, pictured above, Nickayla Thomas, teacher Pam Breland, Nastassia Isaac, & pictured right, Bernie Dixon, nurse Vickie Singletary, Shania Farmer, & Tisheen Anderson.

‘Walk for Better Health’ held at Tucker Elementary

All Tucker Elementary students, Pre-K through 8th grade, and staff recently participated in a ‘Walk for Better Health.” Parents were invited to participate and walk with the students. Tucker Councilwoman Dorothy Wilson provided participants with bottled water and the Choctaw Diabetic Prevention Program provided granola bars to each of participant.

School Nurse Vickie Singletary organized the activity as a part of the school’s Wellness Program. She encouraged students to start a walking program with their parents at home. Students learned that walking is the easiest and most inexpensive exercise one can do and is the most beneficial to one’s health.

Choctaw Central students visit Jackson Zoo

Julia Faulk’s 7th/8th grade CAAP/TAG students & Humanities I & II students from Choctaw Central Middle School & High School recently visited Jackson Zoo as a culminating activity for their units on the rainforest. Students researched rainforest animals, wrote research papers & made visuals to share what they learned. While at the zoo, each animal’s zookeeper taught the group about his/her animal. Students also completed a scavenger hunt during their visit. Chaperones were Frankie Germany & Ben Stephens.

Basketball season underway at CCHS

Members of the 2009-2010 CCHS Lady Warriors Basketball Team

As the 2009-2020 season of basketball gets under way for the Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors and Warriors, the teams along with the Warrior Nation faithful eagerly await a return to the Big House in Jackson for another championship run. In order to play for a Class 3A title, Choctaw Central must overcome this year’s competitive schedule.

Both teams won their season opener at the annual Choctaw Central Classic on Nov. 7. The Lady Warriors defeated McComb 73-58 & the Warriors claimed a 70-34 victory over Newton County. As of press time the Lady Warriors & Warriors currently have identical 8-3 records.

Lady Warriors head coach Jennie Vance and Warriors head coach Scott Thomas agree that a strong opening to the season is vital but there still needs to be improvement heading into division play.

Already in the season, the Lady Warriors placed second & the Warriors third in the East Central Community College Tournament which pitted the area’s top basketball programs.

“We have played really good at times and have beaten some really good teams, but we have lost three times and I don’t think that we should of lost but once,” said Lady Warriors coach Vance. “We have come back every time and worked on things we are doing wrong. We are just playing a little inconsistent right now and we need to get some consistency going. We

..........continued next page

have the talent but we are just not as consistent as we need to be right now."

In order for the Lady Warriors to dominate in a game, they must overcome the other team's pressure defense, according to Vance.

"A lot of teams in our district will be playing us man-to-man because they know we have trouble playing against that defense. But that's something we are working on each day as we get ready to make a run at a district championship. We have had some really good play so far. We just need to put it all together and we can continue to win," added Vance.

For the Warriors, coach Thomas says inconsistency have plagued them early in the season but hopes to rebound heading into division play.

"We have had games where we struggled shooting the ball and the two games we ended up losing we just could not make our shots. But the kids are playing hard and on defense we are playing really well. Overall, I think we are progressing along where we need to be and trying to get ready for the division schedule. I think we are on track to have a good season," said Thomas.

One of the team's strongest attributes, according to Thomas, is the overall contribution by all the players.

"We are not a team that just has five players nor will we win or lose depending on how just that five play. We will have eight, nine, 10 guys that can play and have been playing very well so hopefully if one member is having an off night then another can help pick up. I would say that our depth would be are greatest overall strength right now," said Thomas.

As of press time, Choctaw Central split the Dec. 15 division opener against Kemper County as the Lady Warriors won 73-66 while the Warriors lost 83-76. Choctaw Central then travels to Cherokee, North Carolina to face the homestanding Cherokee High School in the Cherokee Tournament Dec. 18-19.

Choctaw Central closes out 2009 as they host the Choctaw Central Invitational Dec. 28-29. Teams invited include Southeast Lauderdale, Northeast Lauderdale & Carthage.

Members of the 2009-2010 CCHS Warriors Basketball Team

Warriors end 2009 football season 5-6

As the Choctaw Central High School Warriors 2009 football campaign came to an end, the Warriors once again found themselves on the outside looking in as their hopes for post-season play was cut short after finishing the season with an overall 5-6 record and 1-5 in division 5-3A play.

The 2009 football season started off strong following a four-game winning streak with wins in the season opener over Noxapater 21-6, then Union 26-19, Newton County 28-22 and a victory over Cherokee 37-8 in the Battle of the Nations.

A run to post-season play seemed realistic for the Warriors as they were about to enter division play, but back-to-back losses to 3A powers Morton 44-6 & Ackerman 28-8 proved to be a downward spiral for the team.

Injuries didn't help the cause either as a number of Warriors were sidelined late in the season or some played the rest of the season harboring injuries.

The Warriors opened strong in division play and won their division opener on the road against Heidelberg 14-12. Unfortunately, that would be their lone victory in division play as the next four contests were all heartbreakers as the Warriors came within the grasp of victory on several occasions.

Losses to Kemper County 28-19, Southeast Lauderdale 35-32, Clarkdale 30-23 and Philadelphia 38-6 would seal the fate of the 2009 season for the Warriors as Choctaw Central would go on to finish the season with a 5-6 record and now looking ahead to the 2010 season.

The combination of a rigorous 11-game schedule, a competitive 5-3A schedule and numerous injuries may have contributed to the Warriors down fall in the second half of the season.

The Warriors did manage to garner post-season honors for several of it's players as selections were made for the All-Region 5-3A team.

Quarterback Chris Willis was named Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Year for Region 5-3A. He completed 105-of-221 passing attempts for 1,469 yards and 14 touchdowns. Willis also rushed for 793 yards on 105 carries and scored seven touchdowns.

On the defensive side, Lee McMillan was named Best Linebacker for Region 5-3A. He had 109 tackles for the 2009 season.

Warriors named first-team selections were Wesley Martin, Kahlon Logan and Alan Edwards.

Selected to the second-team were Garrick Stoliby, Dylan Dixon, Josh Thomas, Monte Farve, Lenoise Willis, Kaiser Cotton, and Deanrick Isom.

Members of the Warriors football team making the 2009 All-Region 5-3A team were, from left, Kahlon "Jack" Logan (1st-team), Josh Thomas (2nd-team), Lee McMillan (Best Linebacker), Chris Willis (Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Year), Garrick Stoliby (2nd-team), Dylan Dixon (2nd-team), & Kaiser Cotton (2nd-team). Not pictured are (1st-team selections) Wesley Martin, Alan Edwards & (2nd-team selections) Monte Farve, Lenoise Willis, & Deanrick Isom.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

The staff members would like to share some of the memorable moments of our 2009 club year.

JANUARY

We had three teen nights during the month. The first teen night was held on Jan. 16 as members made & ate soup for supper.

The second teen night was held on Jan. 23. Members were taken to Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls Club for a 3-on- 3 basketball tournament.

The third teen night was held on Jan. 30. We had Mrs. Sharon Hockett talk to us about HIV (ACT Smart Program). We had chili cheese dogs for supper.

FEBRUARY

We had three teen nights during the month. The first was held on Feb. 6 as teens were taken to a Valentine's "Date Smart" Dance at the Pearl River Boys & Girls Club.

The second was on Feb. 13 as we held a Valentine's party for the teens at the club.

The third was on Feb. 27 as we held "Mardi Gras Night".

On Feb. 8, TORCH, Keystone & Fan Club members picked up trash on Mills Road as a community service project.

On Feb. 28, members were taken to the Birmingham Museum of Arts as a "Creative Art Program".

MARCH

On March 13, we had teen night at the club for members to enjoy time with their peers. Also, the 8-10 year old members were taken to watch the play, "The Magic Tree House," at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian.

On March 17, members were taken to the Natural Science Museum in Jackson for participating in the Ultimate Journey program.

On March 20, members were treated to a cookout for attending during Spring Break.

APRIL

On April 3, we had teen night at the club. On April 22-23, the club staff attended an All Staff training in Tupelo.

MAY

On May 1, TORCH & Keystone members assisted Conehatta Elementary with their Spring Festival by serving the elderly, handing out plates to the community members and helping clean up.

On May 8, we held a teen night "Graduation Celebration" party for our teens at the club.

On May 15, members ages 11-18 years old were taken to the "Graduation Block Party" in Pearl River, hosted by the Community Planning Coalition.

JUNE

On June 4 & 8, we had Choctaw Police Officers Steve, Shoemake & York come talk to the members about the consequences of using alcohol & drugs.

On June 5, teens visited the campus of Meridian Community College.

On June 8, Torch & Keystone members helped clean up the Choctaw Challenge Course.

On June 19, members ages 11-18 toured the Choctaw Youth Detention Center & then fished at Lake Pushmataha.

On June 23 & 30, Newton County Police Officers talked about "personal safety", neighborhood safety & their job as a part of our "Kids in Control" & "Career Launch".

Also on June 25, teens were taken to the Choctaw Challenge Course for a second session.

During those times the officers were at the club, Jr. staff, TORCH & Keystone members washed their patrol vehicles as a community service.

JULY

On July 1& 15, Mr. Allen Meely of the Choctaw Fire Department talked to the members about fire safety as a part of our "Kids in Control" program. He also spoke about how to become a firefighter as a part of the "Jr. Staff" program.

On July 2 & 16, Choctaw Police came again to talk to the members about personal safety & their jobs.

On July 7 & 14, Newton County Police came again to talk with the members. Keystone & TORCH again washed the patrol cars as a community service.

On July 17, members were treated to a "Wet N' Wild" day as they celebrated by having water balloon fights, water kickball, water volleyball, balloon burst race, & bingo.

AUGUST

We had two teen night "Welcome Back pool parties" for the teens at the community swimming pool.

SEPTEMBER

We held a teen night at the club on Sept 11.

On Sept. 12, all the staff of Boys & Girls Clubs worked & celebrated National Day for Kids at the Pearl River Softball Field.

On Sept 24, the TORCH & Keystone Clubs hosted the Annual American Indian Day Brave & Princess Pageant at the club.

OCTOBER

Our brave & princess rode in the annual Choctaw Central Homecoming Parade on the Boys & Girls Club float.

On Oct 12, ages 11-18 members traveled to Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls Club to

..see CLUB NEWS, pg. 20

New Year's Fireworks Safety Tips

Tips for a safe New Year's celebration:

1. Fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burns and eye injuries. Consider "LEAVING FIREWORKS TO THE PROFESSIONALS!" Enjoy one of the public fireworks displays on New Year's Eve.

2. Always read and follow all warnings and instructions listed by the manufacturer for the safe use and handling of fireworks.

3. Use only approved fireworks from a licensed retail outlet that posts their retail permit at their sales site.

4. Ensure that other people are out of range before lighting fireworks

5. Fireworks should be lit on a smooth, flat surface away from homes, dry leaves, and flammable materials.

6. Never set off fireworks in metal or glass containers.

7. A garden hose or a bucket of water should be readily available in the event of a fire.

8. Never give fireworks, even sparklers, to young children. Sparklers burn at temperature of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

9. Older children should only use fireworks under the direct supervision of an adult.

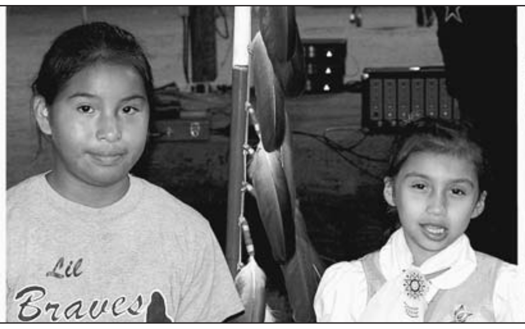
HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center
A SAFE PLACE
FOR
CHOCTAW CHILDREN

Veterans Day Pow Wow winners

The 2009 Veteran's Day PowWow was held on Nov. 6-7, 2009, in honor of all veterans in all branches of the military. We are thankful for the sacrifices they have made for our country & our people. The grand entries were a wonderful mix of dancers with different colors & styles. The weather cooperated & provided a beautiful backdrop for our dancers. Pictured are dancers that placed in their respective categories.

Youth Fancy Shawl - 1st, Shareka Jefferson, 2nd, Memorie Henry & 3rd, Alize Billy.


Youth Jingle Dress - 2nd, Candace Jefferson & 1st, Haylin Anderson

Youth Traditional - 1st, Jacob Thigpen & 2nd, Julian Pashiflaiya Solomon

Youth Fancy Feather - 1st, Terrell Bell.

Teen Fancy Shawl - 1st, Breena Chickaway & 2nd, Deaundrea Jordan.

Teen Traditional Cloth - 1st, Halle Wilson.

Teen Grass - 1st, Zachery Bell & 2nd, Shaun Lewis.

Adult Mens Traditional - 2nd, Trilby Wahwasuck, 1st, Randy Solomon & 3rd, Clint Cayou.

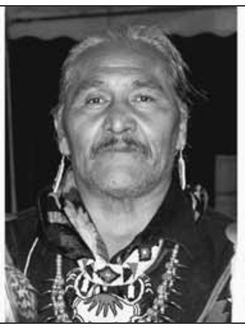
Adult Grass - 1st, Jon Thompson, 2nd, C.J. Green & 3rd, John Bell.

Adult Fancy Feather - 1st, Jordan Kapayou, 2nd, Adam Bell & 3rd, Casey Bigpond.

Adult Straight Dancer - 1st, Erny Zah.

Golden Age Traditional Cloth - 1st, Karen Wahwasuck & 2nd, Nancy Oosahwe.

Golden Age Buckskin - 1st, Earlie Williams & 2nd, Janie Zah.


Golden Age Traditional - 1st, Badger Wahwasuck

Golden Age Fancy Feather - 1st, Lloyd Thompson

Golden Age Straight Dancers - 1st, Jess Oosahwe & 2nd, Vance Beaver.

Adult Women Jingle Dress - 1st, Dawna Charley, 2nd, Monique Bell & 3rd, Sybranda Bell.

Adult Women Traditional Cloth - 1st, Traci Poncho, 2nd, Peggy Williams & 3rd, Angela Stevens.

Adult Women Fancy Shawl - 1st, Emerald Skye Byrd, 2nd, Sykendra Bell & 3rd, Norma Chae Isaac.

Adult Women Buckskin - 1st, Cheyenne Cotton.

CLUB NEWS

continued from page eighteen

play a volleyball tournament.

On Oct 20, ages 11-18 members watched the play "To Kill a Mockingbird" at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian.

On Oct 23, we held a teen night to elect officers for our TORCH & Keystone Clubs.

On Oct 29, ages 11-18 members were taken to the annual Candlelight Vigil held by the Domestic Violence Program. Afterwards, they went to the Choctaw Central football game.

On Oct. 30, TORCH & Keystone Program hosted a Halloween party for all club members.

On Oct 31, the Boys & Girls Club staff hosted a "Truck or Treat" at the Pearl River Boys & Girls Club unit.

NOVEMBER

On Nov. 4, the Boys & Girls Club staff assisted at the Wetlands Discovery at Conehatta.

On Nov. 15, teen members were taken to Canal Place Cinemas to watch a movie.

Nov. 20 was our second teen night as members cooked & ate hamburgers at the club.

On Nov. 23, TORCH & Keystone members helped set up, serve the elderly, hand out plates, & clean up at the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner as a community service.

DECEMBER

On the Dec. 4 teen night, Sharon Hockett of the Choctaw Community Health Department came to inform members about "Sexual Responsibility & Pregnancy Prevention".

On Dec 18, all members were treated to a Christmas & Honor Roll party by the TORCH & Keystone Clubs.

Parents were invited to come see our Winter Art Show as the teens hosted a 5-on-5 basketball tournament at the club against members of the Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls Club.

From Dec. 2-14, Torch & Keystone members collected donated hats & mittens for children in the Social Service Program as a community service project.

We had a wonderful and active 2009 & we hope to see your child come share another fun filled exciting year with us!

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Jan. 4-5 - Club opens! Hours of operations, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Jan. 15 - Teen Night at the club.

Jan. 18 - Keystone & TORCH Community Service - trash pick up on Hugh Mitchell Road.

Jan. 22 - Junie B Jones play at MSU Riley Center in Meridian for Honor Roll member ages 8-10.

Jan. 29 - Teen Night, CCHS basketball game.

Feb. 12 - King & Queen of Hearts Pageant, Teen Night, Valentine party.

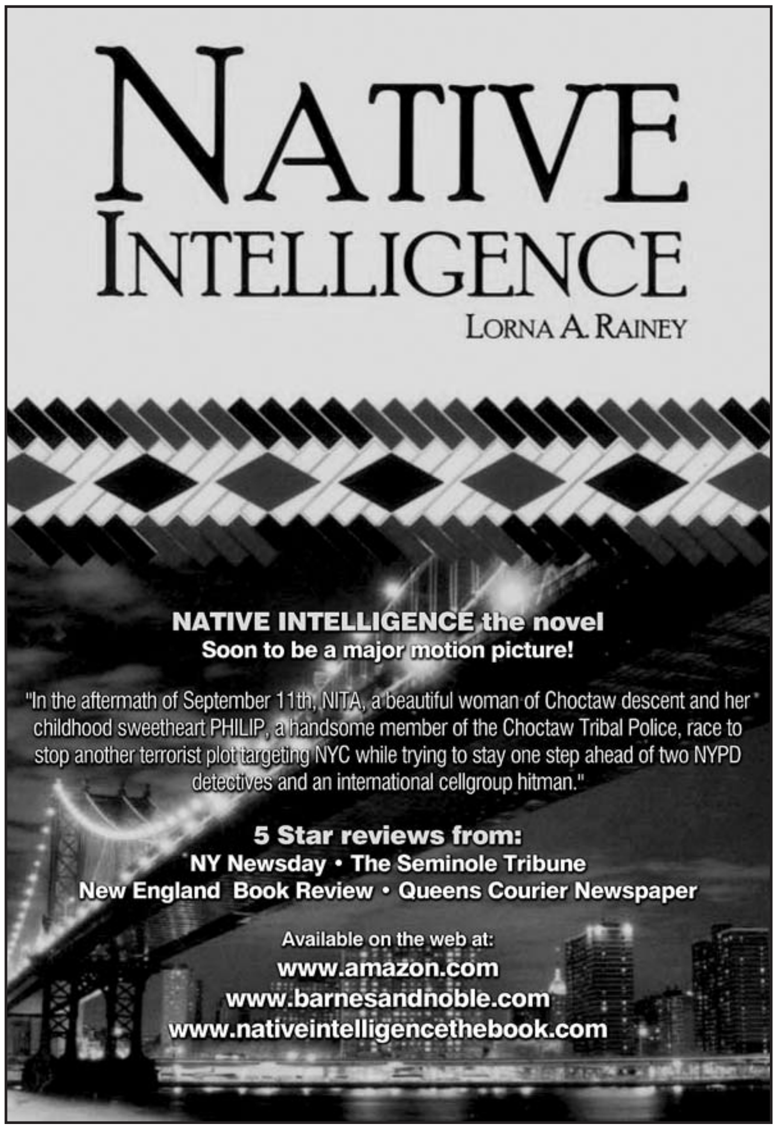
Feb. 15 - Club closed, Presidents Day.

Feb. 26 - Teen Night at the club.

March 12 - Teen Night.

March 15-19 - Club opens! House of operation, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 a.m. Lunch provided everyday.

March 26 - Teen Night.



NATIVE INTELLIGENCE
LORNA A. RAINEY

NATIVE INTELLIGENCE the novel
Soon to be a major motion picture!

"In the aftermath of September 11th, NITA, a beautiful woman of Choctaw descent and her childhood sweetheart PHILIP, a handsome member of the Choctaw Tribal Police, race to stop another terrorist plot targeting NYC while trying to stay one step ahead of two NYPD detectives and an international cellgroup hitman."

5 Star reviews from:
NY Newsday • The Seminole Tribune
New England Book Review • Queens Courier Newspaper

Available on the web at:
www.amazon.com
www.barnesandnoble.com
www.nativeintelligencethebook.com

Looking Back: Summer 2009 WIA-Supplemental Youth Service Program

submitted by Dawnena John

The 2009 Choctaw Supplemental Youth Service Program (SYSP) is a six-week program that serves youth ages 14-21 from low income families. The Choctaw Supplemental Youth Service Program is a component of the Employment and Training Department, located at the Tribal Annex II building #3.

The 2009 SYSP Program focused on preparing our youth of today for the future by emphasizing and encouraging youth to stay in school, earn a diploma and preparing for a competitive workforce. This summer program served 31 youths with 28 completing successfully.

The goals of the Supplemental Youth Service are:

1. Complete Job Readiness /Orientation to the world of work;
2. Complete Youth Leadership and/or youth skills training;
3. Complete Career Assessment;
4. Complete Occupational Skills Training.

Participants are ready for an activity.

To accomplish the goals, the program partnered with East Central Community College (ECCC) Integrated Technology, Behavioral Health, Adult Basic Education, and other Tribal programs.

Classroom setting for the daily activities for the program where held at the ECCC Integrated Technology Building where instructors provided classroom instruction for the M3 credentials, resume writing, job preparation seminars and administered the Works Keys Assessments. M3 credentials can help the youth obtain employment with Applied Geo Technologies, Inc., and other related jobs.

ECCC Integrated

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Technology Center instructors provided classroom instruction that led to youths receiving the Modern Multi-Skills Manufacturing (M3) production and advanced production level certifications. This is the second technology applications class from the Department of Employment & Training to earn the M3 Credential, which is supported by West Alabama-East Mississippi (WAEM) Regional Initiative.

The M3 credential shows a prospective employer that the right core technical skills and knowledge to perform the job have been achieved, saving time and training dollars for the company.

The certification qualifies for Multi-disciplines within the industrial work environment giving them the competitive edge during the hiring process. Twenty-eight youths were awarded the M3 credential Level I & II.

ECCC Integrated Technology center staff administered the summer youth program participants the Work Keys Assessment for the first time. The Work Keys is a job skills Assessment system measuring “Real World” skills that employers believe are critical to job success.

The youth who received the certificate now have state-recognized credential certifying their workforce skills level in Applied Math, Reading for Information, and Locating Information. These three areas have been identified by employers nationwide as essential foundational skills needed in the workplace for job placement and career advancement as well as for the development of a skilled workforce.

Based on the Work Keys Assessment, a person received, a Gold, Silver or Bronze level certificate stating the exact skills levels the person has in the assessed area.

Bronze Level - Core employability skills for approximately 30 percent of the jobs.

Silver Level - Core employability skills for approximately 65 percent of the jobs.

Gold Level - Core employability skills for approximately 90 percent of the jobs.

Thirteen youths received their State of Mississippi Career Readiness Certification.

Other activities included the 4th Annual Youth Leadership Conference that took place at the Choctaw Central Middle School, sponsored by the Choctaw Community Planning Coalition, tour of the Veteran’s Memorial Museum at Camp Shelby as part of the educational field trip, Ropes Course focused on team building and leadership skills, Job Readiness Skills Workshop held at the Choctaw Hospitality Institute, Tribal Cultural Exchange with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Alabama, Behavioral Health employment and the factors that should be considered when looking for a job and/or career was provided by the staff of Employment and Training, Choctaw History to our youth and TABE testing consisted of vocabulary, comprehension, mathematics computation, mathematics concepts applications, language mechanics, and language was provided by the staff of Choctaw Adult Education Program.

The assessment addressed occupational interests, values and aptitude based on the student’s own perceptions of his/her abilities. Customer Appreciation Day sponsored by Choctaw Behavioral Health. Classroom activities were held in the mornings and participants were in work experience in the afternoon.

On behalf of SYSP participants, the staff of Employment & Training would like to express our greatest appreciation to all the programs that took part in this year’s accomplishments.

SYSP participants who completed the six-week course were honored.

Choctaw SYSP participants visit Poarch Band of Creek Indians youth in Atmore, Alabama.

Native Hoop
www.nativehoop.ning.com
Get involved:
Discussions, Blogs,
Chat... and much more!
A site by Natives, for Natives, promoting our culture and our peoples in a positive way.

LUNCH & LEARN

The Tribe’s “Lunch & Learn” Program will take place on Tuesday, January 26 shortly after the noon hour in the Entertainment Trailer next to the Pearl River Amphitheater. This program is designed to educate you on your health and financial well being in these hard economic times. You’ll learn how to save money and stay healthy. This program is absolutely FREE! So bring your LUNCH & LEARN.

TOPIC: MAKING A WILL / POWER OF ATTORNEY

For more information, contact Rita Jones at 601-650-7449,
Darlene Willis at 601-656-2211,
Jim McAdory or Candy Jimmie at 601-656-2070.

ARRA Supplement Youth Services Summer 2009

submitted by Josephine Thompson

LOOKING BACK!

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Department of Employment & Training was awarded the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Supplemental Youth Services Grant for Program Year 2009. The grant provides training & job opportunities for 20 tribal members ages 14-24 from low income families for six weeks.

The program also hired a staff member to provide counseling & supervision to participants. The ARRA Supplemental Youth Service program is in the process of serving 16 additional youth, bringing the total number of participants served to 36.

The goals of the ARRA Supplemental Youth Services program are:

1. **Complete Job Readiness Training** during the course of their program participation, a course of instruction relating to job readiness or world of work skills. Also, includes training to develop positive work habits, attitudes & behavior, such as punctuality, regular attendance, presenting a neat appearance, getting along & working well with others, exhibiting good conduct, following instructions & completing tasks, accepting constructive criticism from a supervisor & co-workers, showing initiative & reliability, & assuming responsibilities involved in maintaining a job.

2. **Complete work experience** activates with classroom-based learning activities where appropriate so that the youth are provided with assistance in developing & refining attitude, values, & work habits which will contribute to their success in the workplace.

3. The Employment & Training staff added the additional goal of **Complete Career Assessment** for participants enrolled in the program. During the course of their program participations, a formal Career Assessment of occupational interests, values, skills or aptitudes leading to an identification of careers for which the participants may be suited.

The ARRA - Supplement Youth Services Program also formed a partnership with East Central Community College (ECCC) Integrated Technology Center to assist with youth accomplishing their goals & becoming more competing in the workforce.

ECCC Integrated Technology Center instructors provided classroom & hands on instruction that led to ARRA participants receiving their Modern Multi-Skills Manufacturing (M3) production & advanced production level certifications.

ARRA will be the third technology application class from the Dept. of Employment & Training to earn the M3 Credential, which is supported by West Alabama-East Mississippi (WAEM) Regional Initiative. The M3 Credential shows a prospective employer that the right core technical skills & knowledge to perform the job have been achieve, saving-time & training dollars for the company.

The certification qualifies for multi-discipline within the industrial work environment giving the ARRA participants the competitive edge during the hiring process. ARRA participants who successfully completed the program were awarded the M3 Credentials Level I & II.

ECCC Integrated Technology Center staff administered the Work Keys Assessment for the second time for the Dept. of Employment & Training. Work Keys is a Job Skills Assessment System measuring "Real World" skills that employers believe are critical to success.

The ARRA participants who received the certificates now have state recognized Credential Certifying their Workforce Skills levels in Applied Math, Reading for Information, & Locating Information.

These three areas have been identified by employers nationwide as essential foundational skills needed in the workplace for job placement & career advancement, as well as for the development of a skilled workforce.

Based on the Work Keys Assessment, a person received a gold, silver or bronze-level certificate stating the exact skills levels the person has in the assessed area.

Bronze Level - Core employability skills for approximately 30 percent of the jobs.

Silver level - Core employability skills for approximately 65 percent of the jobs.

Gold level - Core employability skills for approximately 90 percent of the jobs.

ARRA Supplemental Youth Service program also formed a partnership with Choctaw Natural Resources Dept. to provide work experience to all participants. ARRA participants' job title included Forestry Assistants, Natural Resource Assistants, Recycling Assistants, & Horticultural Assistants.

Some of their many duties included:

1. Split, store & deliver wake wood & cooking wood;
2. Assist in the removal of trees in yards & on highway expansion;
3. Perform maintenance, repair, duties on equipments, & facilities;

..........continued next page

CAT
Daily
CAT

LEFT, *ARRA participants Joel Shumake Jr. & Danice King check to see if flowers & vegetables need watering.* **RIGHT**, *ARRA participant Ramsey King II test drives for forklift certification.*

LEFT, *Heather Tangle participates at the ropes course for team building.* **RIGHT**, *Jordan Tubby & T.J. Lewis attend a Youth Leadership Conference.*

4. Paint new signs, fire cache reorganization;

5. Apply herbicides on invasive species;

6. Participant in ongoing fire crew physical fitness & training & fire fighter training;

7. Receive training & certification on small forklifts;

8. Assist in hazardous fuel reduction;

9. Plant trees, assist in beaver control;

10. Train in the use & transportation of bulldozers, farm tractors, skids steer, ATV's amphibious buggies, dibble bars, & brush mowers;

11. Assist in Farmers' Market with sales of fruits & vegetables;

12. Perform ground keeping duties;

13. Pick blueberries; and

14. Plant flowers.

Other duties included: attending Job Readiness Conference, Youth Leadership Conference; Presentation on Native American History, Career Readiness Assessment, Resume Writing, Interview Technique & Job Application practice.

Stork Craft to recall more than 2.1 million drop-side cribs

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with Stork Craft Manufacturing Inc., of British Columbia, Canada, announced on Nov. 23 the voluntary recall of more than 2.1 million Stork Craft drop-side cribs, including about 147,000 Stork Craft drop-side cribs with the Fisher-Price logo.

The recall involves approximately 1,213,000 units distributed in the U.S. & 968,000 units distributed in Canada.

CPSC urges parents & caregivers to immediately stop using the recalled cribs, wait for the free repair kit, & do not attempt to fix the cribs without the kit. They should find an alternative, safe sleeping environment for their baby.

Consumers should contact Stork Craft to receive a free repair kit that converts the drop-side on these cribs to a fixed side.

The cribs' drop-side plastic hardware can break, deform, or parts can become missing. In addition, the drop-side can be installed upside-down, which can result in broken or disengaged plastic parts. All of these problems can cause the drop-side to detach in one or more corners.

When the drop-side detaches, it creates space between the drop-side & the crib mattress. The bodies of infants & toddlers can become entrapped in the space which can lead to suffocation. Complete detachment of drop-sides can lead to falls from the crib.

CPSC, Health Canada, & Stork Craft are aware of 110 incidents of drop-side detachment; 67 incidents occurred in the U.S. & 43 in Canada. The incidents include 15 entrapments; 12 in the U.S. & three in Canada. Four of the entrapments resulted in suffocation.

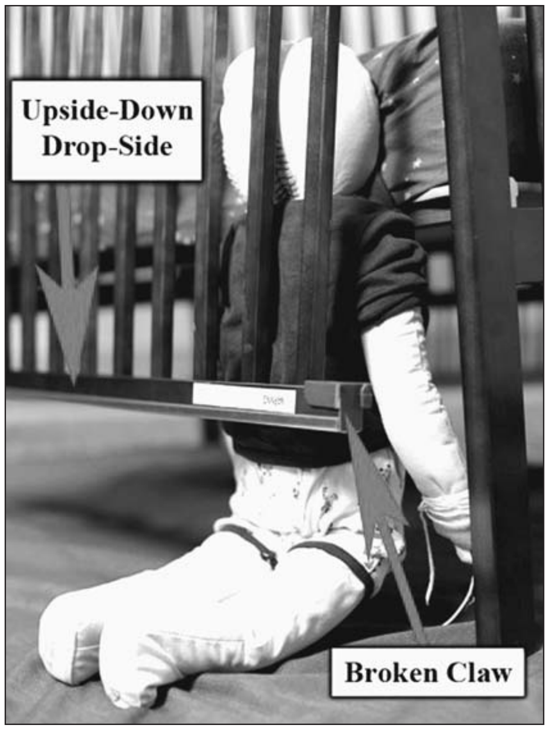
Included in these incidents are 20 falls from cribs; 12 in the U.S. & eight in Canada. Fall injuries ranged from concussion to bumps & bruises.

The cribs involved in these incidents had plastic drop-side hardware that had broken, missing, or deformed claws, connectors, tracks, or flexible tab stops; loose or missing metal spring clips; stripped screws; and/or drop-sides installed upside-down.

This recall involves Stork Craft drop-side cribs & Stork Craft drop-side cribs with the Fisher-Price logo. This recall does not involve any cribs that do not have a drop-side.

This recall does not involve any cribs with metal rod drop-side hardware. It involves only those cribs with plastic trigger & one-

.........see RECALL, pg. 24



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RECALL .... continued from page twenty-three

hand-system drop-side hardware.

This recall includes Stork Craft cribs with manufacturing & distribution dates between Jan. 1993-Oct. 2009. This recall also includes Stork Craft cribs with the Fisher-Price logo that have manufacturing dates between Oct. 1997-Dec. 2004.

The Stork Craft cribs with the Fisher-Price logo were first sold in the U.S. in July 1998 & in Canada in September 1998. The cribs were sold in various styles & finishes.

The manufacture date, model number, crib name, country of origin, & the firm's name, address, & contact information are located on the assembly instruction sheet attached to the mattress support board.

The firm's insignia "storkcraft baby" or "storkling" is inscribed on the drop-side teething rail of some cribs.

In Stork Craft cribs that contain the "Fisher-Price" logo, this logo can be found on the crib's teething rail, in the manufacturer's instructions, on the assembly instruction sheet attached to the mattress support board, & on the end panels of the Twinkle-Twinkle & Crystal crib models.

Major retailers in the U.S. & Canada sold the recalled cribs including BJ's Wholesale Club, J.C. Penney, Kmart, Meijer, Sears, USA Baby, & Wal-Mart stores & online at Amazon.com, Babiesrus.com, Costco.com, Target.com, & Walmart.com from Jan. 1993-Oct. 2009 for between $100-$400.

The cribs were manufactured in Canada, China & Indonesia.

For additional information, contact Stork Craft toll-free at (877) 274-0277 to order the free repair kit, or log on to www.storkcraft.com

In Memory

HAROLD BRANT WILLIS, SR.

Funeral services for Harold Brant Willis Sr., 40, were held Friday, November 20, 2009, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Willis passed away Nov. 16 at Jeff Anderson Hospital in Meridian.

He graduated from the ABE Program in 1996 & enjoyed playing stickball and socializing with his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edmond Harold Willis; a son, Harold Brant Willis Jr.; a wife, Denise Jim Willis; a grandfather, Bonnie Willis; & an aunt, Elsie Jim.

Survivors include his mother, Susie Jane Willis; one son, Brantly Xavier Wilson; three daughters, Nikita Nicole Wilson, LaNesha DeRaine Wilson & Brandy LeAnn Willis, all of Choctaw; a sister, Monica Willis Hall of Choctaw; five brothers, Kevin Willis Sr., Tyler Willis, Curtis Mac Willis, Ronnie Willis, & Michael Ray Willis, all of Choctaw; two uncles, Patrick Willis of Philadelphia & Bobby Willis of Oklahoma; two aunts, Zula Scharpenberg of Ohio & Norma Bacon of Choctaw; a great-aunt, Katie Thompson of Choctaw; a niece, nine nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

WILBERT J. SMITH

Funeral services for Wilbert J. Smith, 60, were held Saturday, November 21, 2009, from the Conehatta Community Facility Building. The Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the St. Catherine Cemetery in Conehatta. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Smith passed away Nov. 17 at his residence.

Mr. Smith was baptized in June 2005 & was a member of the Calvary Indian Baptist Church in Union.

Prior to his disability, he was a police dispatch radio operator. He enjoyed participating in traditional Choctaw social dancing at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center in Choctaw.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Onie Jackson Smith; parents, John Milton Smith & Carrie Shoemake Jefferson; two sisters, Angeline Smith & Dora Smith; & a daughter, baby girl Smith.

Survivors include two aunts, Mrs. Georgia Lou Thomas & Ms. Juanita Shumake; one uncle, Hubert Shoemake, all of Conehatta; & numerous relatives & friends.

INFANT CHANNING GAGE CHICKAWAY

Graveside services for Channing Gage Chickaway were held Wednesday, November 25, 2009, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery in the Tucker

..........continued next page

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Community.

Infant Chickaway was stillborn on Nov. 23.

He was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Judy Chickaway & Bobby Jean Dixon.

Survivors include his parents, Neihmiah Chickaway & Lacrisha Dixon; one sister, Cherrell Chickaway; seven half-sisters, Latrisha Dixon, Bernadette Dixon, Jalena Farve, Reneesha Farve, Bridgette Farve, Ashton Chickaway, and Shykim Chickaway; two brothers, Zachariah Chickaway & Eliason Chickaway; one half-brother, Jalen Farve; one niece, Chacely Willis; grandfathers, Eddie Dixon & Stevie Chickaway, all of Philadelphia; two aunts; five uncles; & a host of relatives.

WILBER JOHNSON

Funeral services for Wilber Johnson, 74, were held Wednesday, December 2, 2009, from the Conehatta Community Facility Building. The Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Johnson passed away Nov. 30 at his residence.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army & was employed with the Choctaw Tribal Schools for 22 years before his retirement in 2002. Prior to that, he was employed at a poultry plant as well as a poultry truck driver.

His hobbies included fishing, hunting, reading the Bible, watching stickball games, & spending time with family & friends. He was also a coach of a men's baseball team called the Sluggers. He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alton Johnson & Savannah Denson Johnson; two sisters, Ludie Ann Billy & Thelma Smith; a brother, James Johnson; two grandchildren, Garrison Johnson & Keith Davey Thomas; a great-granddaughter, Tannah Johnson; three nieces & a nephew.

Survivors are his wife, Sarah Williams Johnson; three daughters, Dina Thomas & Dalla John, both of Conehatta, & Peggy Patrick of Sebastopol; four sons, Gary Johnson, Terry Johnson, Billy Johnson, & Aaron Johnson, all of Conehatta; a sister, Zula Chitto of the Standing Pine Community; a nephew, Olin Williams Johnson; 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

SLICK THOMPSON

Funeral services for Slick Thompson, 63, were held Wednesday, December 9, 2009, from the Tucker Facility Building. The Rev. John Farve officiated.

Burial was in the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Thompson passed away Dec. 6 at the Neshoba County General Hospital in Philadelphia.

He was a Baptist & a member of Corinth Baptist Church.

He was employed as a bus driver and custodian at Tucker Elementary School for 20 years.

His hobbies included playing basketball, stickball, bingo, going to church, reading his Bible, & going to ballgames.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ellis & Lena Mae Thompson; two sisters, Diane Billie & Nora Frazier; one brother, Stanley Thompson; grandmother, Beauty Morris; & grandfather, Julius Morris.

Survivors include three daughters, Angela Chitto, Natanya Pisarick & Priscilla Thompson; one son, Steven Thompson; three sisters, Suzanne Stoliby, Effie Bell, both of Philadelphia, & Darlene Thompson of Conehatta; two brothers, Pat Thompson & Ralph Thompson, both of Philadelphia; 10 grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARY JANE BELL BEN

Funeral services for Mary Jane Bell Ben, 52, were held Monday, December 14, 2009, from the Pearl River Mennonite Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Dewayne Reinhardt officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Ben passed away Dec. 11 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

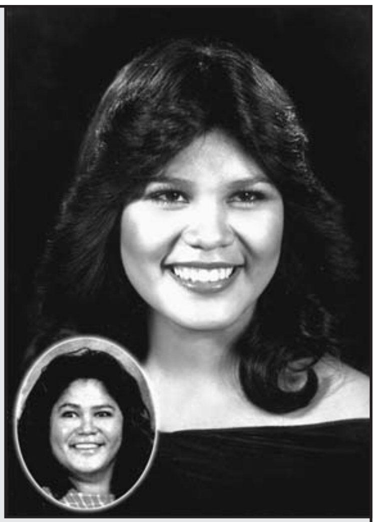
She resided in the Pearl River Community with her children & enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Nellie Mae Bell.

Survivors include her daughters, Barbara Ben & Jennifer Ben; one son, Kyle Ben, all of Philadelphia; four grandchildren; one brother, O'Neal Bell of Philadelphia; two uncles, Sterling Bell of Philadelphia & Ralph Rex Bell of Chicago, Illinois; & relatives & friends.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SHERI ROBINSON MAKTIMA

Date of Birth	Date of Death
July 1, 1962	Nov 12, 2009
Ripley, TN	Flagstaff, AZ



Sheri graduated from Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw, MS. She then graduated from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, & is a NAU alumnus. Sheri served as Business Manager of her husband's business. Previously, she was employed by the federal government as a Park Ranger in Flagstaff, NM.

She was a collector of art & crafts & bead work. She was an accomplished artist & donated her time to non-profit agencies, such as the Native American Indian Association (NAIA) in Nashville, TN. She designed the signature logo for the NAIA & also designed T-shirts for several of their pow-wows.

Mrs. Maktima is survived by her husband, Willard Joseph Maktima; son, Joseph Teach Maktima; parents, Bill & Sally R. Wells of Smyrna, TN; sister, Christi Wells Dean of Smyrna, TN; two nieces; an uncle: Freeman Robinson of Ripley, TN; four aunts, Joyce A Bell of Ripley, TN, Edna Fay of LaVergne, TN, Sammie J. Sanders of Smyrna, TN, Claudine Carlson of SC, & Nancy Hassen of OH.

She is preceded in death by grandparents, Jimmy Teach Robinson & Ronie Robinson.

Holy Rosary was held on Monday, Nov. 1, 2009, 10:00 AM, at the St Pius in Flagstaff, AZ. Funeral Mass followed at 11:00 AM, same location. A special memorial service is planned in the Nashville area for her family & friends to gather & celebrate her life in early December.

In lieu of flowers, friends & family are asked to send donations to support raising her son, Joseph:

Willard Maktima
c/o Wells Fargo Bank
210 W 2nd St
Winslow, AZ 86407

INDIAN PRAYER

Do not stand at my grave & weep,
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you wake in morning hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave & cry,
I am not there. I did not die.

- Author Unknown

Fifth Toys 4 Chahta Alla Osi tournament a success

The 5th Annual Toys 4 Chahta Alla Osi Basketball Tournament was another successful event.

This year's tournament was held December 7-9 at the Choctaw Central High School Gymnasium in Choctaw.

The 2009 tournament championship went to the Choctaw Tribal Security team. Placing second was the team representing Applied Geo Technologies, Inc. Congratulations!

Eddie Sam and Kendall Grisham of IKBI, Inc., provided the trophies, sweaters, and T-shirts.

The tournament, held for the past five years, began as a Choctaw Department of Public Safety event in which local police departments, fire departments, detention and security programs play in a basketball tournament to collect toys for admission.

The toys are collected by the Choctaw Children and Family Services & then distributed to the foster children in their care. The program has also at times provided toys for other programs.

In partnership with the Choctaw Department of Public Safety and the Choctaw Children and Family Services, the annual event has grown and more teams have entered the tournament. The 2009 tournament consisted of 23 teams!

The Choctaw Department of Public Safety thank the following who helped make this event possible: all the teams - Dancing Rabbit, Choctaw Detention, Choctaw Police Department, Philadelphia Police Department, Choctaw Fire Department, Choctaw Tribal Security, Choctaw Health Center, Tribal Office, Boys & Girls Club, Philadelphia Fire Department, Golden Moon, Silver Star, Choctaw Children & Family Services, Choctaw Tribal Courts, Manpower, AGT, IKBI, Choctaw Maintenance & Landscaping, Choctaw Tribal Schools, Red Water Elementary, Choctaw Loan Program/Credit Union, Pearl River Resort Maintenance, Transit; officials (Terry Kinsolving, Bobby McMillan, Nickey Jim, & Kendall Wallace), MC - Capt. Harold Comby; Shannon Willis; Department of Public Safety Director Ken Butler and family; James Sampson; Amanda Frazier; Joanne Hickman; Wendall Willis; Shannon Morris with the Census Bureau; Cinica Sam; Luppie Cotton; Charish Lewis; Jeremmy Eades; Alfred Wright; Louisa Bell & Dayton; Jane Charles; Judge Peggy Gibson & Juanita; staff from the Boys & Girls Club; Kevin Grisham; Grant Williams; & to all other individuals who helped kept scores, helped worked in the concession stand, or took part in this event in any way. Thank you so much you were a big help to us.

We would also like to send a big thank you to Dalton Henry, Dr. Greg Carlyle & coach Walter Wilson for allowing us to use the Choctaw Central High School Gym. Yakoki.

Thank you to all the businesses who contributed monetary donations, toys or gift certificates or assisted to make this event

continued next page

Bob Briscoe of Pearl River Food Service donated bicycles & tricycles to the Toys 4 Chahta Alla Osi campaign. From left are Choctaw Department of Public Safety personnel Shannon Willis, Bob Briscoe, Director Ken Butler, & Amanda Frazier.

Welcome To The Scalping Grounds
SECURITY

The team from Choctaw Tribal Security captured the 5th Annual Toys 4 Chahta Alla Osi Basketball Tournament championship.

The team representing Applied Geo Technologies, Inc., placed second in the tournament.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
FROM THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

possible: MBCI Tribal Miko Beasley Denson & the Tribal Administration; Pearl River Resort; Beems Gun & Pawn; Sonic Drive-In of Philadelphia; Yates of Philadelphia; McGivney Tires of Carthage; D&W Tires of Philadelphia; Choctaw Paper Company (Gerald Stoliby & Walt Brister); The Pow-Wow BP Store (JJ Manning & staff); Hope Country Store (Jerome & Sherry Manning); Williams Bros.; IKBI, Inc.; AGT; Kae's Collection (Sheena Edwards & staff); Bumpers Drive-In; Cornerstone Consulting Group; Dancing Rabbit; Neshoba County Co-op; Leake County Co-op; Wilma Simpson; Jason York; The Added Touch; Pearl River Food Service (Robert "Bob" Briscoe); and MBCI Communications.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended this event and for all the toys that were collected. Thank you so much for your support. Because of your generosity, the children will have a good Christmas.

Yakoki and Merry Christmas from The Department of Public Safety Department.

Celebrates first Christmas

The family in Mississippi wish Shaunry Mickal Thomas Jr. his first Christmas with his proud parents, Shaunry Thomas Sr. & Tamiko Dee. Also, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to Tim & Joyce Thompson, James & Tina Dee, & Shaunry's uncles, Deon Dee & Bryant Wilson, all of Henryetta, Okla. From Grandma Thomas, Grandpa & Grandma Wilson, Shane & family, Shawn, Scott, Steve, Sharisha, Shaylene, & Brannon.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

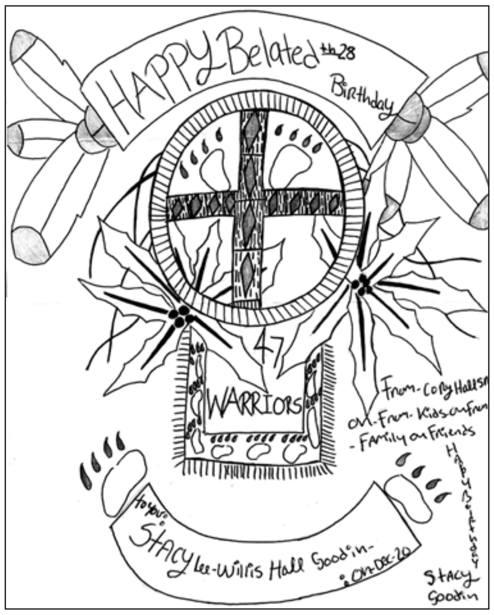
Happy Belated Birthday to Julie Ann Shoemake on Oct. 31. Hope you had a good time on your birthday.

We wish a Happy New Year & Happy Birthday to our Dad, Aaron Bell, on Jan. 2, 2010. We love you Dad for all that you do for us! Love always, J.C., Skyla, Kitty, & Kyle.

Happy Belated Sweet 16 to Shay-Shay Jefferson on Dec. 11... Also to Shari Jefferson, Happy 15th Birthday on Jan. 16, from Steph, Mina & Justin.

Happy Birthday to Dave "Garfield" Willis on Jan. 11, from Sis, Mina, Justin, Tasha, Ian, Latin, Cody Jr., Iccly, Imidrian, Shauna, Eric, Shay-Shay, Shari, Sharrisa, Boy, Kendall, Jalen, Katlin, Renee, & Jalane.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Duralas Mingo on Jan. 30. Love from Mom, Dad, & Kodin... Merry Christmas to Duralas & Kodin, Leo, Jay J, Bubba, Layla, Chito, Sonny, & Staci Bell. Love, Girly & Shay.

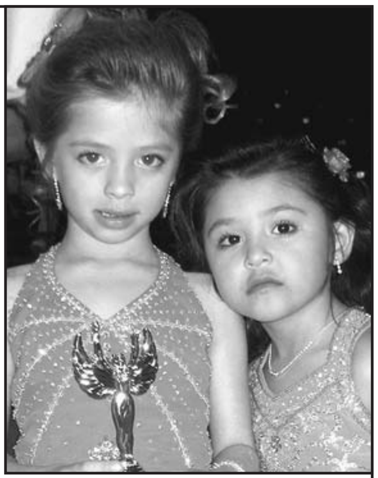


To Miss Priscilla Ann Thomas - By this age you should have realized that life sucks, but with a few good friends like me, you can get through it. Precious, rare & hard to find - that's what your friendship is. So here's wishing a very belated birthday to a gem of a friend on Nov. 21. Happy Birthday! E.T.

Happy Belated Birthday to Jessica Tubby on Nov. 5, from the Tubby Family... Happy Belated Birthday to Mr. Gurdy Farmer Jr.

see BIRTHDAYS, pg. 28

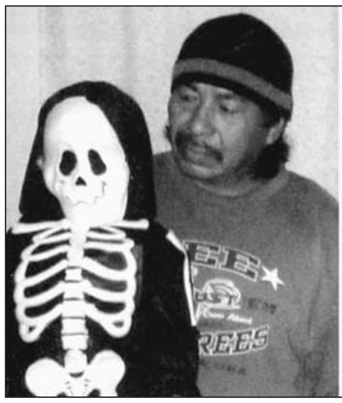
Clemmons appear on TLC's *Toddlers and Tiaras*



Yahmiyah Sunshine Clemmons & Angel Bahlantah Clemmons, daughters of Sammy Clemmons Jr. & Angela Hundley, appeared in a recent episode of The Learning Channel's (TLC) television show *Toddlers and Tiaras*. Sunshine & Angel competed in the Glitz Category in the Little Miss USA Pagaent. Congratulations Angel for winning the Little Miss USA Southern Division Title in the 4 year-old division. We are very proud of you girls! Love, Mom, Daddy, Justin, Trent, Mamaw, Shondra, DD, Robert, Diamond, & Deja.

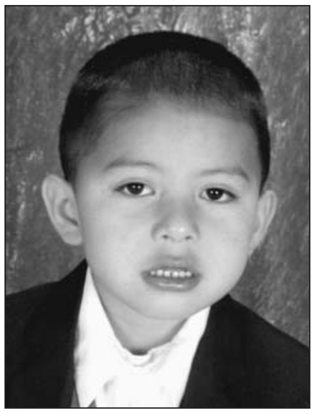
Hundley-Smith captures Little Miss Magnolia State Preliminary Title

Rodezah Imihyahnah Hundley Smith captured the title of Little Miss Magnolia State Preliminary Title in the 4 year-old division. She will be competing in the state pageant in June 2010 in Jackson, Miss. She is the daughter of Robert Smith & Diamond Hundley. Rodezah was sponsored by Fultons Construction. We are very proud of you & wish you the best of luck as we will all be there to support you! Deja is enrolled at Bogue Chitto Elementary & very proud to be a student of Mrs. Perry & Ms. Tucker in the Pre-K class.



LEFT, *Happy Birthdays to my sweet babies, C.J. on Dec. 20 & Jr. Mingo on Dec. 29, from your wife Brenda & your grandkids.*

RIGHT, *Happy Birthday to Corny on Dec. 11. Hope you have a good one. Don't overdo it (haha). Love, your Mom, Stepdad C.J., Ashton, Shykema, & Jr.*



Happy Birthday L'l Bj' Our adorable Bjorn Williams, Jr. turns 6 on Jan. 9. You're our blessing. Love & kisses from your sisters Layla & Maya, cousin Jaeden, your auntie, Grandmas, Mom & Dad.

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BIRTHDAYS .... continued from page twenty-seven

on Dec. 30, from Alicia Tubby.

Happy Belated Birthday to my babies, Arman Duran Jefferson, Jr. (Birdi) who turned 3 on Nov. 21 & Carmon Dontay Jefferson who just turned a year old on Dec. 10... Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to my babies, Melody, Syrese, Antone, Duran, Arman Duran, & Carmon Dontay. Daddy will always love you forever & I miss each & everyone of you. Love, Daddy (Arman Duran Jefferson, Sr.).

Happy Birthday to the Buzz on Dec. 30!

Happy ?? Birthday to Brandi King!

Happy Birthday to Daisyanna John on Dec. 31... Happy Birthday to Duane John Jr. on Jan. 2.

Happy 47th Birthday to Jimmy Nickey on Jan. 21, from Sandra, the grandkids & all of the family.

Happy 50th Birthday to Benson Lewis on Jan. 27, from your brothers, sisters & the rest of the family.

Happy 20th Birthday to Lynnita Ann King "Nani" on Dec. 30. Have fun & be safe! Sisterly love from Brandi & family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Ms. Trudy Rose Lewis on Dec. 27. From Ashley & Ashton.

Happy Birthday to Nellie on Dec. 22, from all your pack-mates (Cissy, Ginger, Andy, Barney, Daisy, Harley, Marley) & the Alpha Male Fred!

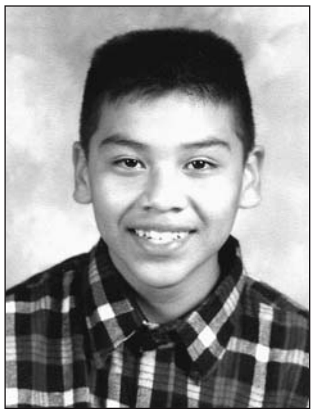
Happy Birthday to Grandma Jenny Lewis on Jan. 17. With love from Josh, Lucy, Leah, Adarius, & Jayshun.

LOOK WHO'S 5 YEARS OLD, MY DARLING BABY GIRL

Cecilliya Wesley turned 5 years old on Jan 13. I just can't believe it that you are 5 years old. I wish you were still my little baby, but I have to let you grow up. I remember the exact day when you were born & I held you for the first time. You smiled at me when I told you I loved you very much. And until this day I still tell you I love you, & you do the same. With hugs & kisses - Daddy, Mommie & Bubba.

Leah & Adarius

LEFT, Happy Birthdays to Leah & Adarius Lewis. We wish Happy 2nd Birthdays to our little angels on Jan. 3. We love you very much, from Mom, Dad & big brother Jayshun... We also wish a Happy Belated 22nd Birthday to Josh Lewis on Dec. 18. We love you, from Lucy, Leah, Adarius, & Jayshun.



Happy 27th Birthday to Todd Thomas on Jan. 19, from Mom, Jimmy & all of the family.

Happy Belated Birthday Belky on Dec. 3. From Mom, Grandma, Bootyman, Aunts, & your Bok Cito cousins... & Happy New Year!

Happy Belated 2nd Birthday to Daisy'Alynn Myseantean Perkins on Dec. 4. We also wish her a Merry Christmas. She is the daughter of Brandi King & Sean Perkins. We love you so much big girl! From Mommy, Daddy, Nani, Tenya, Sahmeya, Ramses (lol), "Boy", Mamo & Spock (lol).

Happy Belated Wedding Anniversary to Eric & Shavna Jefferson on Dec. 9, from your family. We love you guys.

Bein' away from you, its like I'm stone. I never thought I would face this darkness of mine. Even time & time again, you will always be in my heart. Eternity as in melody never ends.

Becoming a father was like, I could reach to another world. I'm grateful to have you in my life (my babies, my children). Hardest thing for me to believe, I'm apart from my kids again, even though God watches over you, I still sing my prayers. Another day of sunrise, I imagine your smiles day by day, I face the tragedy of being without ya'll.

Pain is full in my heart & soul, having my tears running down like its raining. Any other time, I rewind my memories to the precious moments. The time when you were born, putting myself in that position, helps me to cheer up my days. Having my lil' angels in my arms again. As shining lil' faces like beautiful clouds with rainbows the babies of my life.

Divine within my heart turns into darkness on & on, still I stand never to believe, a man can't cry. Tragedy is most painful when you face it alone. Accepting daily, still, I move on you will always be in my heart forever.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year babies - Melody (Bieye), Antone (Bihead), Arman, Jr. (Phat-Phat) & Carmon (Dontay). Daddy loves you & misses you all.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 2 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 FEBRUARY 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

OJJDP officials visit Tribe

New grant brings $700,000 to the Justice Center to develop a demonstration juvenile reentry program with sustainable green activities

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) was recently awarded a Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Tribal Juvenile Detention and Reentry Green four year grant award. The initiative is a component of OJJDP's Tribal Youth initiative.

This is the first year that OJJDP has released a solicitation that exclusively focuses on providing services and programming for tribal youth in juvenile detention facilities in Indian Country.

With this new demonstration program, OJJDP seeks to enhance opportunities for federally recognized tribes to provide comprehensive and quality programs for tribal youth who reside within or are being released from

.........see GRANT, pg. 4

Institute of Chahta Immi opens in Choctaw

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians recently held an open house for a new cultural resource center to benefit tribal members as well as the general public.

The Institute of Chahta Immi was opened on Wednesday, December 30, 2009. Operated by the Cultural Preservation Program (CPP), the facility is located in the Choctaw Town Center, South side entrance, off Highway 16 West in Choctaw.

Roseanna Thompson, CPP Director, encouraged those in attendance to take advantage of the opportunity to preserve and promote their Choctaw

......see INSTITUTE, pg. 6

RIGHT, *Attending the ribbon cutting ceremony were, from left, CPP mascot "Shawi", CPP Director Roseanna Thompson, Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis, & Tribal Member Services Division Director Henderson Williams.*

CCMS Robotics Team makes presentation to Mi̱ko Denson

What started as a safety project entry for the Choctaw Central Middle School's (CCMS) LEGO Robotics Team in the Choctaw Tribal Schools' First LEGO League Tournament in Nov. 2009 has gone beyond competition and into the Choctaw Tribal halls of legislation.

On Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, members of the CCMS LEGO Robotics Team made a 10-minute presentation to Mi̱ko Beasley Denson citing a need for signs to indicate a safe school zone and safe pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Highway 16 and Oswald Road in the Pearl River Community.

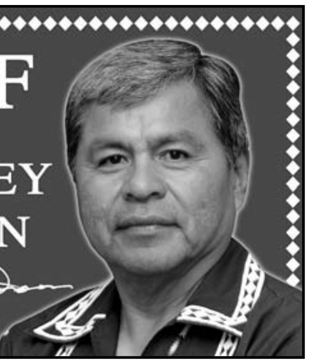
The intersection is located on a busy

.........see SCHOOL SAFETY, pg. 10

TRANSPORTERS
Our Community
PROBLEM
LEGO 2009
SMART MOVE
SOLUTIONS
FACTS

Members of the Choctaw Central Middle School LEGO Robotics Team take a picture with Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and First Lady Lena Denson beside their presentation board at the Choctaw Tribal Council Hall in Choctaw on Jan. 22. Team members include Simon Isaac, DeMarquis Wilson, Malcolm York, Allandra York, Christain Deon, Jada Sockey, & Ozzie Willis.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MI̱KO BEASLEY DENSON



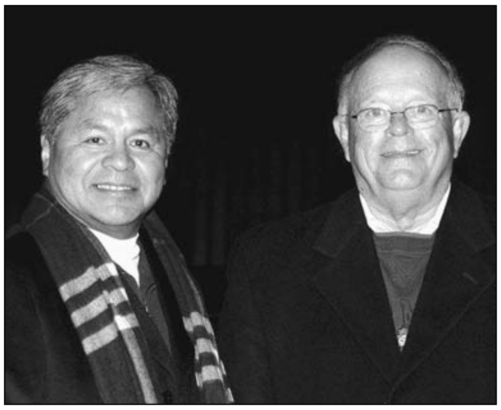
Beasley Denson

I hope everyone had a good holiday season and I wish Chahta a happy new year! We are blessed in many ways as a Tribe and as individuals and I was reminded of that often around Christmas.

On December 19th, I enjoyed a breakfast with our elders at the Elderly Center and on the 22nd I visited with my friends at the Residential Center. It was good to see familiar faces and talk to Tribal members from the different communities gathered in one place. Our Christmas tree lighting was a beautiful ceremony again this year and I want to thank everyone who participated and those who organized it. Choctaw was also well represented in the Christmas parades in Carthage and Philadelphia.

Mi̱ko & Lena Denson at the Christmas Tree lighting.

ABOVE, *Steven Allen leads the carol singing at this year's Christmas Tree lighting.*



RIGHT, *Mi̱ko Denson with Carthage Mayor Jimmy Wallace at the Carthage Christmas Parade.*

Continuing Progress in 2010

For the last year, my administration has been examining and auditing all departments and enterprises to eliminate waste, streamline operations and to become more efficient. This process is necessary not only to survive this recession but also to be sure that when the U.S. economy bounces back, we are in a good position to capitalize on it.

Last year saw sweeping operational changes across the Reservation. The Resort has been reconfigured to better fit the market we serve. We made major changes in operations at the Health Center, where we restored our accreditation and have turned deficits into surpluses, and reorganized Tribal government. Details on these accomplishments were included in last month's *Community News*.

Now we have to turn our attention to our other enterprises.

Last year, we established a new holding company, Choctaw Construction Group, to house all our 8(a) companies, including IKBI, and to oversee them a new corporate board was set up. For the last several months that board has been reviewing the books and business practices at IKBI.

Based on this review, the board determined that changes were necessary, including serious changes to the way IKBI operates. IKBI

..........continued next page

LEFT, *Mi̱ko Denson and his granddaughter present a gift to a Tribal elder in the Choctaw Residential Center.* **RIGHT**, *Mi̱ko Denson and his family visits with the staff members.*

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Bradley Isaac .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, FEB. 5, AT 12 NOON.

THE CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS IS NOW ONLINE AT WWW.CHOCTAW.ORG

could be a very profitable enterprise and we are committed to seeing it succeed. We have a plan in place to balance the books and then rebuild the enterprise intelligently so it can realize its potential. IKBI is now moving in the right direction.

The systematic review of all Tribal entities and operations and the new oversight measures we have put in place are going to ensure a more efficient and productive outlook for the future and provide us with an avenue to catch any discrepancies in the manner in which the companies operate much more quickly. To me, more than anything, this matter demonstrates the importance of identifying, training and preparing more Tribal members to fill these types of roles instead of looking to outsiders.

IKBI will survive and prosper. If we work together and look at the big picture, IKBI will emerge from this in a position to be more competitive and profitable. For too long we trusted that good economic times like those in the 90s would go on forever. This recession has been a good opportunity to clean house and to re-organize our government and enterprises to create more efficient operations that will better endure hard times if they return in the future.

Lena & Mi̱ko Denson were presented with a shirt & basket by Judy Isaac & Mary Emma John from the Elderly Activity Center.

Alternate Choctaw
01/04/2010 21:

Attending the Choctaw Tribal School System's Professional Development Training were, from left, Mi̱ko Denson, Choctaw Indian Princess First Alternate Mahli Jaynae Bell, & Bart Stevens, Deputy Director School Operations, Bureau of Indian Education (Albuquerque, NM).

Choctaw Tribal School System's Professional Development Training

In January I spoke at the Choctaw Tribal School System's Professional Development Training. I'm glad that we had a chance to get together, discuss issues and get on the same page for 2010. The work the employees of the school system do is some of the most important work there is and is critical to the future of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. We can make 2010 a banner year for learning in Choctaw, but teachers, administrators and staff can only do so much. Much of it will be up to the parents and, of course, ultimately it is up to the students themselves.

Education is growth. I encourage every parent to make sure their children are reading enough. If they have they been instilled with a love of reading it will enable them to continue their education throughout the rest of their lives.

Tia Anderson and the Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

Tia Anderson was appointed to the Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

The Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (MS-JJAC) is a committee created to advise the State government and officials on issues related to juvenile justice. MS-JJAC was created by the United States Department of Justice and the Obama Administration to increase tribal involvement.

When the Mississippi Committee needed a new youth member, our Planning Office, Tribal Court Services and Choctaw Teen Court staff recommended Tia Anderson. She is currently studying Administration of Justice at Mississippi College and was an excellent candidate. Governor Barbour approved her appointment and she attended her first meeting on January 7. Congratulations to Tia Anderson, the newest member of MS-JJAC!

Yakoki,

Beasley Denson

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

submitted by Norma Bacon,
Executive Secretary

Special Call Meeting, December 17, 2009

Resolution CHO 10-023, approving FY 2010 Budgets for the Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-024, approving appointments to the Tribal Council Committees & their Chairs, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-025, recognizing heirship interest & to cancel or void addendum encumbering conveyance of house to Benjamin Bell, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-026, approving Mobile Home Rental Policy, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-027, designating current signature authorities for Tribally Controlled Schools Grant, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-028, accepting an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant to fund certain industrial renovations & to amend the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise Capital Budget to allow for matching funds, was withdrawn from the meeting.

Resolution CHO 10-029, designating representatives to serve as County Committee and District Board Members for the East Central Planning & Development District, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-030, liquidating the remaining assets of the R.C. Gardener

see RESOLUTIONS, pg. 5

Leake County Foundation says 'thanks for support'

The City of Carthage and the Leake County Foundation are poised to accept the "Community Heritage Preservation Grant", awarded by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The $134,000 grant dedicated to the restoration of the Old Carthage Elementary School required a local cash match of $16,800, and many of you made a major investment in Leake County's future by meeting our contribution challenge.

The many contributions came from both Leake County and throughout the country. All sizes of donations were equally valuable to achieving our goal. The Foundation wishes to express its thanks to all of our financial partners who have so graciously joined us in this exciting project.

Particular thanks to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for their donation of $7,400 and its belief in the restoration of the Old Carthage Elementary. We hope that all these partnerships grow in number and strength over the long life of this project.

This donation is one of the stipulations of the compact the Tribe has with the State of Mississippi.

GRANT .... continued from page one

tribal juvenile detention centers.

This program also marks the first time that OJJDP is sponsoring an initiative that encourages funding recipients to partner with institutions and organizations to incorporate green technologies and environmentally sustainable activities as part of the program's educational, training, and reentry activities for tribal youth participants.

The MBCI will develop a program at the Mississippi Choctaw Youth Justice Center entitled *Osapausi Amasalichi*, or "getting healing from that little garden".

The grant will give the Mississippi Choctaw Youth Justice Center, in collaboration with Mississippi State University's Environmental Collaboration Office, the resources to design and implement a green education program that will provide education and training opportunities to build on site greenhouse gardens and develop an ethno botanical landscaping component which will allow youth to learn about traditionally harvested plants & foods.

The MBCI Youth Justice Center seeks to successfully reintegrate Tribal youth back into the community by increasing their knowledge of sustainable agriculture and green building, which will substantially increase job opportunities for Tribal youth transitioning back into the community from the Youth Justice Center.

On December 10, 2009, Ms. Laura Ansera, Tribal Youth Coordinator, Office of Policy Development - OJJDP, Patrick Dunckhorst, Program Manager - OJJDP, and other staff made a formal site visit on behalf of OJJDP to meet with MBCI Tribal leaders, community members, and the staff of the Choctaw Youth Justice Center and Tribal Court Services. They discussed the planning, implementation, and evaluation components of the grant for the MBCI Youth Justice Center.

The group toured the Smith John Justice Center and Complex, as well as the Nanih Waiya mounds and attended Mi̱ko Beasley Denson's annual Christmas Luncheon for Tribal government employees as his special guests.

Daniel Mittan is the Director of Court Services for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and is charged with implementation of the award. He has worked with the Tribal Court for almost fifteen years.

"This USDOJ grant through OJJDP fully supports the Tribal Court's efforts to blend culturally-specific activities with restorative justice best-practices to enable our youth and families to be positive contributors to the community. It is truly a unique opportunity with incredible potential, and it has created a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm. We are proud to have been selected and look forward to the partnership with Mississippi State University and OJJDP," said Mittan.

OJJDP visitors enjoyed the Employee Christmas Luncheon as guests of Mi̱ko Beasley Denson as well as a tour of Nanih Waiya & the Choctaw Justice Complex. From left are Todd Mosley, Tribal Planner; Daniel Mittan, Director of Court Services; Jeremiah Dumas, MSU Director of Environmental Collaboration Office; Mi̱ko Denson; Susan Balbas, Technical Assistance Specialist with OJJDP; Janet Chiancone, Research Coordinator with the Office of Policy Development at OJJDP; & Patrick Dunckhorst, Program Manager, Demonstration Programs Division at OJJDP. Not pictured & also visiting with the OJJDP team was Laura Ansera, Tribal Youth Coordinator with the Office of Policy Development at OJJDP.

Choctaws present police vehicle to ECCC

East Central Community College in Decatur received a much-needed addition to its relatively new Police Department thanks to a recent donation by the Department of Public Safety for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. From left, Captain of Patrol Operations Wendell Willis presents keys to a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria patrol car to ECCC Police Chief Jonathan Peeples while Public Safety Department Director Ken Butler looks on. Chief Peeples said the College "very much appreciates the patrol car & other equipment donated by Choctaw Law Enforcement. The car & other items will help us tremendously as we continue efforts in establishing a first-class police department at East Central Community College." This donation is one of the stipulations of the compact the Tribe has with the State of Mississippi. (EC Photo)

RESOLUTIONS continued from page three

Estate, to Engage Stevens Auction Company & to contract with an ASA certified art appraiser, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-031, approving an attorney's contract with Mary Ann Narron & Johnny Pope, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-032, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & the State of Mississippi, Mississippi Crime Laboratory, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-033, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & Port Bienville Clay Mine, LLC, M. Matt Durand, LLC & the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-034(B), approving house sites for Choctaw Housing Authority, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-035(B), approving name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-036(B), approving enrollments, was adopted 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Hendrix named president of MSWTC board

John Hendrix

John Hendrix, Director of Economic Development for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, has been installed as the 2010 Mississippi World Trade Center (MSWTC) board president.

The MSWTC is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to assisting Mississippi businesses with all aspects of international trade. Providing a central source of business information, the MSWTC helps to find and capitalize on trading opportunities anywhere.

MSWTC's program initiative focuses on enhancing international trade, investment, tourism, arts & cultural awareness in Mississippi & the mid-South region. Strategic objectives designed to bolster these initiatives include:

- Support & encourage trade & investment opportunities throughout the state & region; partner with state & federal agencies & other WTCs to promote Mississippi worldwide.
- Continue to support development of an integrated, multi-modal transportation system that encourages, promotes & enhances passenger & cargo services to & from Mississippi.
- Support & encourage unified regional tourism efforts that increase the number of international visitors to Mississippi.
- Promote & expand Sister City relationships throughout the world.
- Support establishment & expansion of consulates, trade offices, bi-national chambers of commerce & cultural organizations; encourage the representation of international government in Mississippi to facilitate business opportunities; encourage location of industry associations & other related organizations.
- Support & promote educational systems that enhance & broaden the internationalization of the state & region.
- Encourage informational exchange between organizations that promote business, trade & investment opportunities worldwide.
- Encourage art & cultural activities that enhance the internationalization of the state & region.
- Encourage sporting events that promote the exchange of athletes & athletic programs between Mississippi & other parts of the world.

Serving with Hendrix is John Dean, LandMart/Dean Reality, as vice president & Dr. Deirdre McGowan, Mississippi Water Resources Association, as secretary/treasurer.

Other board members include: Valerie Adams, Trustmark National Bank; Joan Branson, Northrop Grumman Ship Systems; Liz Cleveland, Mississippi Development Authority; Dr. O.A. Cleveland, ECOIL Technologies & UMGAS-CAITAF; Courtland Gray, Peavey Electronics; Liza Looser, The Cirlot Agency; Jim McArthur, SmartSynch; Cyndi Saia, Viking Range Corporation; Glenn Sigler, Regions Bank; Dr. Sylvia Stewart, Peoples Insurance Companies; Joe A. Waggoner, Waggoner Engineering Inc.; & Arnie Williams, Mississippi Power Company.

2009 CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

A total of 14 contestants representing seven communities (except the Red Water Community) participated in the contest this year. Winners are listed below.

1st place, James H. Bell, Bogue Chitto Community

2nd place, Roger & Jessica Mayfield, Pearl River Community.

3rd place, Trudy Chapman of the Bogue Homa Community.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The Choctaw Adult Education program will provide **FREE** income tax assistance to Choctaw tribal members beginning the week of **February 8-12, 2010** with a special week focused solely on the preparation of income tax returns. This free service will continue until the income tax filing deadline of **April 15, 2010**.

What to Bring:
Social Security cards
W-2's
1099 MISC
1099 R
1098's
Day care statements
Any other income tax information

Bring your information to the Choctaw Adult Education office in the Manpower Training Center beginning February 8 and until April 9, 2010 to take advantage of this **FREE** service. You can contact Adult Education at 601-650-1756.

irs.gov

Mi̱ko Denson visits with Tribal students

The children & youth of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians deserve the best education possible. Ensuring that this happens is the duty of everyone in the community, especially Tribal leaders. On Wednesday, Jan. 20, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson visited Pearl River Elementary School, the Occupational Training Center, Choctaw Central Middle School, Cathy Jones' Special Education class, & Choctaw Central High School.

Students Hailey Denson & Breanna Isaac (P.R.E.S.), Joshua Hickman (OTC), Kelly Dixon & Kobe York (CCMS), Blake Martin & Brandon Hickman (Cathy Jones' class), & Tasha Laird, Martika Bell, & Josh Thomas (CCHS) greeted Mi̱ko when he arrived at their respective schools.

He toured the facilities & met with students & saw first-hand what projects they were working on. With each group, at all grade levels, he emphasized the importance of reading.

He enlightened the students of increasing their vocabulary & at the same time learning important lessons from home & abroad. He used John Grisham's book, *Ford County,* to demonstrate lessons of keeping up to date with what's going on in the nursing homes & learning information about our own community of Pearl River Resort.

After his visits, he had lunch with students at the CCHS cafeteria.

RIGHT, *Mi̱ko Denson observes Pearl River Elementary students as they work on their class assignments.*

(More photos next page)

Radon Gas killed 20,000 Americans in 2009

The World Health Organization and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have announced a *call to action* for Americans to test their homes for Radon Gas, which has recently been identified as the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers in the United States. The EPA has officially designated January 2010 to be National Radon Action Month in the U.S.

Radon is a naturally-occurring, radioactive gas that seeps out of the ground and can enter homes and other buildings. Since Radon is invisible and odorless, the only way to know if a home has dangerous levels of the gas is to conduct a Radon test.

Radon problems have been found in every county in the U.S., so the Surgeon General is recommending that all homes are tested.

The EPA estimates that as many as 8 million homes in the U.S. currently have elevated levels of Radon Gas. They also predict that if action is not taken to correct this problem, between 15,000 and 22,000 deaths will occur in 2010 from exposure to the gas. This is a health threat of epidemic proportions that needs immediate attention.

For more information, visit The National Radon website at www.RadonMonth.WorldPress.com.

INSTITUTE .... continued from page one

culture.

"Choctaw ways are important. Our culture is important and without our language, who are we but just another Native American. I'm hoping that we'll get the support we need as we progress to awaken our culture once again," said Thompson.

"Shawi," the Cultural Preservation Program mascot, eagerly awaits the opening of the Institute of Chahta Immi. "Shawi" is the Choctaw word for raccoon.

"When we look at other Native Americans, we know that there is a lot of things we have forgotten, we have lost, but we want to bring that back. We want to awake our children and make them realize 'you are Choctaw so be proud of it.' And that's our goal over here, to make people realize that they are special, they are somebody and that we need to be proud of who we are," added Thompson.

Chahta Immi, which means "ways of the Choctaw", is a resource center for cultural and historical presentations and workshops designed for school groups as well as the general public.

It is the first phase of the Cultural Heritage Center, a project sponsored by a grant from Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO).

Henderson Williams, Director of the Tribal Member Services Division, emphasized to Tribal members that they should be proud of their culture and heritage.

"The effort here is to promote what was ours, chahta immi. It doesn't belong to the Apaches, it doesn't belong to the Navajos, it's not Seminole, chahta immi. If we bring back the knowledge and then teach our young people and the public, this

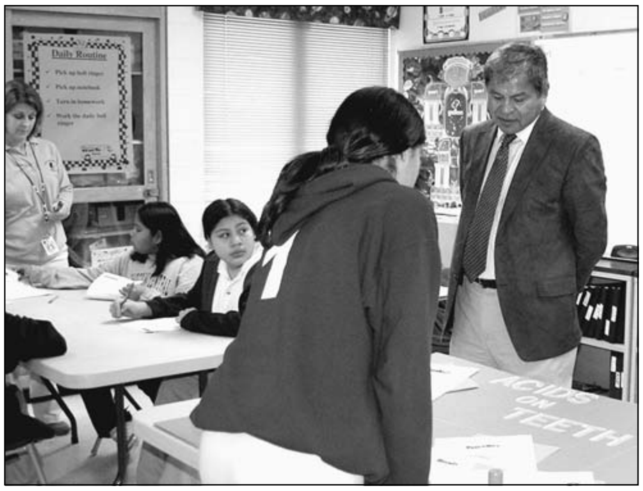
..........continued next page

A young Tribal student asks Mi̱ko Denson for his autograph.

Laka Anderson

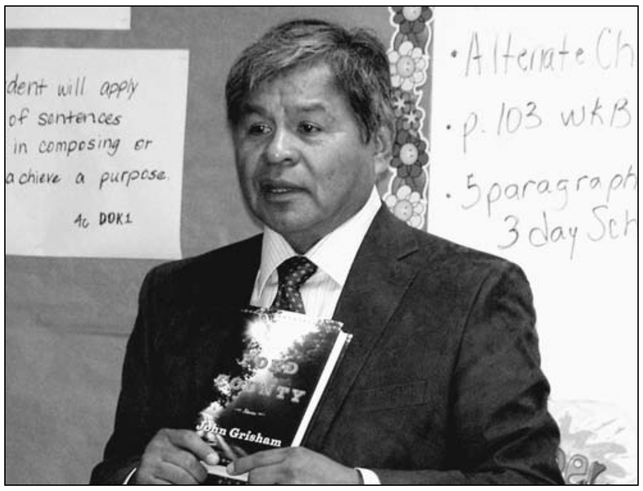
Mi̱ko takes a picture with Laka Anderson at the OTC.

Mi̱ko observes OTC students at work.



Mi̱ko looks on as a CCMS student works on a project.

Mi̱ko Denson poses with several CCHS students in the cafeteria.



Mi̱ko Denson holds up John Grisham's ***Ford County*** *as he emphasized the importance of reading.*

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institute is going to be used for that purpose in a great way," Williams said.

Williams also praised the hard work and dedication of the CPP staff.

"I have seen some very motivated staff members here at Cultural Preservation. We are proud of you and I know that you are going to continue the work that has just now started," said Williams.

Following the remarks, the CPP staff sang a song in Choctaw about being happy and proud to be Choctaw. The ceremony closed with a ribbon cutting. The audience then entered the building and got a first-hand look inside the Institute.

The Choctaw CPP preserves, promotes, embraces and enhances the cultural heritage of the Choctaw people.

The CCP operates through five branches - Tribal Archives, Cultural Affairs, Tribal Language, Choctaw Museum, and the Choctaw Indian Fair - and operates from MBCI Tribal revenue and a grantee of ECHO, a project of the United States Department of Education and the Ishtatahli Project, a Native Language Maintenance and Preservation Planning Grant from the Administration for Native Americans.

The ECHO award is shared by six partner organizations from Alaska, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Mississippi. The partners create culture-based learning experiences for students, teachers and communities through public programs, teacher resources, student programs, publications, and internships.

ECHO partner organizations seek to enhance appreciation of regional heritage and to facilitate dialogue and understanding between communities and individuals.

For more information, please contact the Cultural Preservation Program at 601-650-7506.

After the Dec. 30 ribbon cutting ceremony, the attendees got a first-hand look inside the Institute & met local artisans & CPP staff members as they exhibited traditional craft making skills & offered various cultural information. The Institute is located in the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw, South side entrance off Highway 16 West.

NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Choctaw Cultural Preservation Program (CPP) wrapped up 2009 with an array of workshops, presentations and productive information-gathering trips. CPP staff members traveled across the country representing the tribe and presenting Choctaw culture to new audiences and making contacts.

BEADING WORKSHOP HELD AT INSTITUTE OF CHAHTA IMMI

Choctaw Tribal members were treated to two beading workshops at the Institute of Chahta Immi (ICI) Educational Facilities on Dec. 1 and 8, 2009.

Thallis Lewis provided instruction on how to make hand crafted beaded Christmas tree ornaments. The workshop provided an opportunity for families to participate together and decorate the ICI Christmas tree.

CPP EMPLOYEES ENJOY HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Prior to the Christmas holidays on Dec. 18, 2009, the CPP employees retreated to ICI for a time of fellowship and feasting. Director Roseanna Thompson hosted fun team-building activities for her staff. The staff exchanged gifts and sang Christmas carols in the Choctaw language.

CPP staff member Trudy Jimmie instructs the beading workshop participants at ICI.

CPP singers, from left, Eddie Johnson, Andrew Willis, Thallis Lewis, Phyllis McMillan, & Priscilla Williams perform their rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" for staff members.

ECHO STAFF ATTEND MEETINGS IN DENVER, CO & WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Education Through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) quarterly meeting, held in Denver on Nov. 16-18 for coordinating collaborative programming, was attended by Roseanna Thompson, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) CEO representative for ECHO; Bobby Smith, ECHO Project Manager; and Phyllis McMillan, ECHO Cultural Education Specialist.

This ECHO meeting was the first for Thompson and McMillan, which was very educational and provided good networking opportunities with other ECHO partner institution staff from Massachusetts, Hawaii and Alaska.

The MBCI ECHO staff proceeded to Washington, D.C., for a special Strategic Leadership Meeting with ECHO Partner CEOs, upper management, congressional staffers and consultants to affirm shared future vision and mission, set strategic goals, measures and priorities to fulfill ECHO's purpose in its strategic context.

The administrative leadership and program staff will meet again at February's annual presentation to the Department of Education and quarterly meeting for further discussion and refinement of criteria to apply to projects as a basis of testing and improving concepts for program development with national significance.

ABOVE, *CPP Administrative Coordinator DeLaura Saunders made a cultural presentation for Head Start children at the Attala County Library in Kosciusko.*

RIGHT, *Pictured with Sherrill Nickey, right, is Grenada Elementary School teacher Mrs. Musselwhite.*

STORYTELLING PRESENTATION

On Nov. 17, 2009, CPP Administrative Coordinator DeLaura Saunders traveled to Kosciusko, Miss., for a cultural presentation for 146 head start students from the surrounding area at the Attala County Library.

The children were studying Native Americans as part of their preschool curriculum. Using pictures, puppets and storytelling, Saunders introduced them to Mississippi Choctaws.

PRESENTS CHOCTAW CULTURAL OVERVIEW TO TAG STUDENTS

On November 18, 2009, Sherrill Nickey and Amanda Bell - representing the Choctaw Cultural Preservation Program - presented the Talented and Gifted (TAG) second and third grade classes of Grenada Elementary School in Grenada, Miss., with a Choctaw Cultural Overview including a history of Grenada and Indians of Grenada County.

.........continued next page

Tribe to host ECHO Performing Arts Festival

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will host the Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) Performing Arts Festival at the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Arts Council Theatre, located at 311 Byrd Avenue in Philadelphia, Miss., on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

ECHO's Performing Arts Festival, now in its 10th season, brings together cultural performers from Massachusetts, Hawaii, Alaska, & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to create a collaborative performance art piece, based on a shared theme.

This year's theme, *Celebrate - Song, Dance & Story!* highlights how stories, music & dance convey cultural traditions & knowledge from one generation to another & across geographical borders.

Local performer, Curtis "Buck" Willis, Jr., a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, will be traveling with the Festival from mid-January to mid-March 2010, visiting Alaska, Hawaii & the continental U.S.

Audiences will learn about the customs & traditions of our country's Native & immigrant cultures & have an opportunity to compare & contrast them with each other & with their own traditions, developing an appreciation for all.

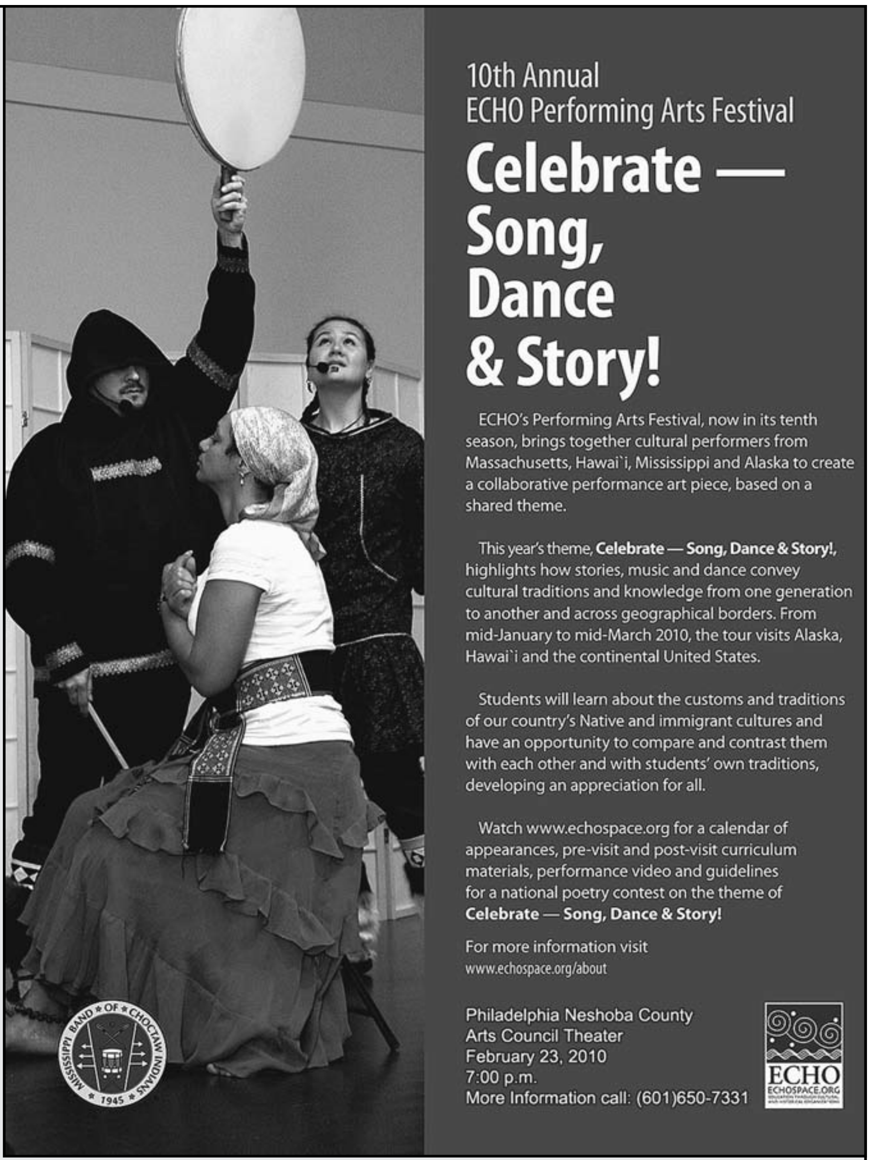
The MBCI Cultural Preservation Program is a grantee of ECHO, a project of the U.S. Department of Education. This award is shared by six partner organizations from Alaska, Hawaii, Massachusetts, & Mississippi.

The partners create culture-based learning experiences for students, teachers & communities through public programs, teacher resources, student programs, publications, & internships.

ECHO partner organizations seek to enhance appreciation of regional heritage & to facilitate dialogue & understanding between communities & individuals.

There is no fee for admission. For more information visit the website, www.echospace.org/about, or call the MBCI Cultural Preservation Program at 601-650-7331.

ECHO 2010 performers include, from left, Curtis "Buck" Willis (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians); Ani Lokomaika 'i Lipscomb (Native Hawaiian) of the Bishop Museum; Annawon Weeden (Mashpee Wampanoag) of the Peabody Essex Museum; Allison Akootchook Warden (Inupiaq) of the Inupiat Heritage Center; Stephen Blanchett (Yup'ik/Inuit/African-American) of the Alaska Native Heritage Center; & Jose Manuel Vinagre (Portuguese-American) of the New Bedford ECHO Project.



10th Annual
ECHO Performing Arts Festival

Celebrate — Song, Dance & Story!

ECHO's Performing Arts Festival, now in its tenth season, brings together cultural performers from Massachusetts, Hawai`i, Mississippi and Alaska to create a collaborative performance art piece, based on a shared theme.

This year's theme, **Celebrate — Song, Dance & Story!**, highlights how stories, music and dance convey cultural traditions and knowledge from one generation to another and across geographical borders. From mid-January to mid-March 2010, the tour visits Alaska, Hawai`i and the continental United States.

Students will learn about the customs and traditions of our country's Native and immigrant cultures and have an opportunity to compare and contrast them with each other and with students' own traditions, developing an appreciation for all.

Watch www.echospace.org for a calendar of appearances, pre-visit and post-visit curriculum materials, performance video and guidelines for a national poetry contest on the theme of **Celebrate — Song, Dance & Story!**

For more information visit
www.echospace.org/about

Philadelphia Neshoba County
Arts Council Theater
February 23, 2010
7:00 p.m.
More Information call: (601)650-7331

ECHO
ECHOSPACE.ORG

CULTURAL PRESERVATION FIELD TRIP TO MOUNDVILLE, ALA.

On December 16, 2009, the Choctaw Cultural Heritage Center Planning team took an educational field trip to Moundville Alabama Archaeological Park to tour the new Moundville Museum exhibits, not yet open to the public. Some of the mannequins incorporated into the exhibits were actually created with face molds taken from Choctaw Tribal members.

The team was privileged to learn first-hand about the process and see the near end product with exhibit designer Geoffrey Woodward of Taft Designs and Bill Bomar, Director of Moundville Archaeological Park.

The new Moundville Museum facility was the result of several years work that will soon provide the public a wonderful new perspective of life and culture at Moundville over seven centuries ago.

Committee participants include Dr. Ken York, Roseanna Thompson, Jay Wesley, Martha Spencer, Sonya Monk, Bobby Smith and Ann Wesley (who was unable to attend).

NEW MEXICO RESOURCE GATHERING, DEC. 2-4, 2009

Jay Wesley, CPP Special Projects Planner, and Eddie Johnson, CPP Media Specialist, conducted a resource gathering expedition to New Mexico. The CPP is developing a Cultural Heritage Center that will provide exhibitions on Chahta Immi, educational programming, Tribal Archives processing, and educational outreach programs.

Wesley and Johnson explored several cultural and tourism centers, such as the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), the IAIA's College of Lifelong Education, the Poeh Museum - Pueblo of Pojaque, the Sky

......see CPP NEWS, pg. 10

CPP NEWS .... continued from page nine

City Cultural Center of Acoma Pueblo, the Indigenous Language Institute, and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

This trip consisted of tours and discussions on tourism initiatives, sharing of ideas with different Native American cultural programs, and tourism funding resources. This trip provided useful and needed information on assisting the MBCI's development by meeting with knowledgeable leaders in the field of cultural tourism, exhibitory, collections, and archiving.

ICI OPENING

Since October, the Cultural Preservation Program has made broad strides towards uniting the culture programs of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The first major step forward was the opening of phase one of the Choctaw Heritage Center - the Institute of Chahta Immi - on Dec. 30.

ICI is a resource center for researching and implementing Choctaw culture. With lofty goals, high standards and dedicated staff promoting, preserving, embracing and enhancing our Choctaw culture in 2010 will exceed expectations.

In attendance for the Dec. 30 Institute of Chahta Immi opening were, from left, CPP mascot "Shawi", CPP Director Roseanna Thompson, 2009-10 Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis, & Tribal Member Services Division Director Henderson Williams.

SCHOOL SAFETY .... continued from page one

four-lane highway and is used by pedestrians and motorists to get to school, day care centers, work, and the Choctaw Health Center.

Their solution is to install a pedestrian crossing signal, install signs to indicate a safe school zone and safe pedestrian crossing, or install overhead pedestrian crossing.

"Based on the students' project, this is an item that Mi̱ko (Denson) is taking a lead to talk with the officials with the Mississippi Department of Transportation," said Dalton Henry, Tribal Education Services Officer.

"The group did research in terms of the number of traffic that comes through Highway 16 and the number of pedestrians that comes across from Oswald Road. Since we are a school, there should be a school zone emphasis in that area. The team did a good job," added Henry.

The students had previously presented their findings to two representatives from the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and to the Tribal Education Committee.

Officials from MDOT informed the students that a letter of request from the Tribal Miko's Office needed to be submitted to MDOT.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mi̱ko Denson congratulated the students on their presentation and commended the students on discovering a problem that had been overlooked for a long time. He indicated that he would submit the request for signs to MDOT, and he hoped that a resolution would be realized within six months.

"We are going to do our best because this is a meaningful project and it is something that should be done. There have been accidents out there so this is something that I think will provide safety for all traffic, whether it's pedestrian or vehicle. Again, I applaud your efforts," said Mi̱ko Denson.

After his remarks, Mi̱ko Denson invited the students to his office in the Tribal Office Building where he presented them with MBCI jackets and other memorabilia.

Members of the CCMS LEGO Robotics Team are Simon Isaac, DeMarquis Wilson, Malcolm York, Allandra York, Christain Deon, Jada Sockey, and Ozzie Willis.

They recently competed in the Mississippi State First LEGO League Championship on Jan. 30 at the Jackson County Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS' CULTURAL INITIATIVES

Under the direction of Mr. Dalton J. Henry, Tribal Education Services Officer, the Choctaw Tribal Schools have strived to ensure that the Choctaw children have the opportunity to learn more about their language & culture. Changes have been made in the curriculum department to include Choctaw culture objectives & activities for all grade levels.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS PREK-8 CULTURAL INITIATIVES

Kindergarten through eighth grade instructional activities were inserted with each objective to develop an improved cultural emphasis in instruction with revisions in November 2008. See the following examples of the additions to the curriculum. Note that this is not a complete list of the additions, only a small sample.

- **6th grade Choctaw Culture Objectives**

CC6.1A, A. Outline the organization of the Choctaw Tribal Government & the purpose of each department. Draw a chart outlining the organization of the Choctaw Tribal government & the purpose of each department.

CC6.1B, B. Explain the functions of the 17 member Tribal Council & the Tribal Mi̱ko. List the functions of the Tribal Council members & the Tribal Mi̱ko.

CC6.1C, C. Describe the legendary accounts of the Choctaw people. Draw a mural that illustrates the legendary accounts of the Choctaw people.

Kindergartens through eighth grade cultural activities were created to align instruction with the Mississippi Department of Education Math & Science Curriculum (July 2009).

MISSISSIPPI MATHEMATICS FRAMEWORK 2007 OBJECTIVES 3RD GRADE:

- **2a**. Create, describe, & extend growing & repeating patterns with physical materials & symbols including numbers (DOK 2);
- **Instructional Math, Cultural Activities**:

.........continued next page

"Sequence & Bead Patterns" Creating a Sacred Place for Students in Mathematics, pp. 52-53;

- **5b**. Analyze, predict & model the number of different combinations of two or more objects & relate to multiplication (DOK 2);
- **Instructional Math, Cultural Activities:** "Pow Wow Trails" www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd.

The 2010 Science Curriculum Competencies & Objectives 6th grade:

- **3b**. Compare & contrast structure & function in living things to include cells & whole organisms (DOK2).
- **Cultural Connection**: Wetland Discovery Outdoor Classroom in Conehatta: Examine the "Swamp Cane" site to observe that plants need water & light. Name three cultural items made from cane baskets, blow guns, & whistles. Students will locate different plants & trees comparing cell functions. Recognize & identify the use of Native American plants used for dye, medicine, & food sources.

Instructional activities were included in the Choctaw Cultural Instructional Pre-Kindergarten Guide's objectives, created by the Choctaw Tribal Language Program, to enrich the students' cultural education (September 2009).

- Choctaw Culture Objectives Pre K: CCPK1.II I. Able to identify/state a plant, animal, bird and/or human in Choctaw. 1.1 Names/identifies plants, animals, humans, ex. Plants: *napakali* - flower; Animals: *loksi* - turtle, *shawi* - raccoon; Birds: *okfochosh* - duck, *kofi* - quail; Human: *alla* - children, *ano* - me.

Teachers notes & resources: Teachers can read the adapted Choctaw story "How the Flowers Came to Be", (Choctaw Heritage Press, 1982). This can also be used in part of teaching taking care of nature. Other stories/activities can be derived from the Okchalechi Book & DVD.

The Quality Assurance Review Team commended the Choctaw Tribal School System for its impact on student performance & awarded the eight schools SACS CASI District Accreditation with AdvancED (January 2009).

The following goals were included in the five year SACS CASI District Accreditation Choctaw Tribal School Improvement Plan to strengthen the renewed emphasis in cultural education (February 2009):

- Prioritize & address the importance of the Native American culture.
- Introduce new teachers to cultural awareness & heritage to increase implementation of culture based instructional activities.
- Increase opportunities for students enrolled in the Choctaw Tribal Schools After School Program to participate in Choctaw cultural components including language, arts, crafts, & history.
- Develop cultural pride & demonstrate knowledge of the native language & cultural heritage by implementing Choctaw Culture activities into the Mississippi Department of Education Math & Science Curriculum framework.

Students have the opportunity to participate in specific cultural lessons during Native American week in September & Spring Festival in April. During these times, students learn about basket weaving, beading, & Choctaw cooking practices. Students also learn traditional Choctaw stories & legends.

Throughout the school year, assistant teachers have the opportunity to work with students in the after school program & a designated time during the school day on cultural activities.

OTHER CULTURAL INITIATIVES:

- A district wide parent forum was held for the reservation community to come together to seek input from parents for the purpose of improving education for Choctaw children (February, 2009).
- Wetland Discovery Outdoor Classroom was built to allow Choctaw students the opportunity to interact with wildlife, agriculture, forest land, & artistic cultural sites to gain a cultural & spiritual understanding of how the Choctaw people came to be, (November, 2009).
- Realebooks Unite for Literacy Program is being implemented in the six elementary schools for kindergarten & pre-kindergarten students. This program develops the community, parent, school partnership & helps to instill the love of reading for young students (January, 2010).

During the past two years, the high school has included initiatives to incorporate more cultural opportunities for the high school students. One particular initiative was bringing in more Native American motivational speakers to inspire students

see INITIATIVES, pg. 12

Staff Development activities at Choctaw Tribal Schools

Choctaw Tribal School reconvened for the second semester for the 2009-2010 school year for district staff development on January 5, 2010, at the Pearl River Elementary School in Choctaw. During the morning session, faculty and staff heard remarks from Mi̱ko Beasley Denson concerning his educational philosophy and future goals for the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

Mi̱ko Denson challenged teachers, administrators and staff to make 2010 a banner year for learning in Choctaw and stressed the importance of instilling students with a love of reading. He also spoke about the importance of efficiency.

"I want to make sure that every dime is accounted for and spent in such a way as to maximize its value to CTS operations. Similarly, I expect to see that your time as professionals is valued and put to its best use and highest purpose," said Denson.

Remarks were also delivered from Tribal Education Committee chairperson Roger Anderson and Bart Stevens, Deputy Director of Education, Bureau of Indian Education.

Mahli Jaynae Bell, Choctaw Indian Princess First Alternate, sang the National Anthem in Choctaw and led the group in the reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the morning break, Lionel Knight from the Mississippi Department of Education presented information about test security.

During the afternoon sessions, Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers received training on the new Realebook program and how to incorporate this literacy program into their classrooms.

First and second grade teachers participated in grade level meetings to discuss the RTI process and implementation.

English and Social Studies teachers from CCHS participated in the MS Writing for Thinking Institute training. The day proved to be an information and beneficial day of training for all faculty and staff.

RIGHT, *Mi̱ko Denson, left, and Bart Stevens, Deputy Director School Operations, Bureau of Indian Education.*

INITIATIVES .... continued from page eleven

to want to learn more about their culture. The Bureau has provided Native American speakers through the Elknet program, which is an interactive live video conferencing.

Students also produced a Choctaw Culture video with the assistance of Chochise Anderson. This video was used to highlight the unique cultural background of our students during the 2009 SACS review. It should be noted that not only did the video feature about a dozen of our theatre students, the production was shown to all of our students & staff during homeroom period in the fall of 2008.

OTHER CULTURAL INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- Beta Club activities: Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) Beta Club members presented & participated at the ECHO (Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations) symposium held at the Silver Star Resort in the fall of 2008. As a result of participation in this conference, they met the Director of the Native American Studies program at the University of Oklahoma & were invited to visit the university.

More than 15 Beta students visited the OU campus and Bacone College in the spring of 2008. Also, at Beta conventions, our students have placed in the arts & crafts division with entries of their Choctaw cultural art.

- Student Leadership Symposium: Native American entertainers, rap singer Litefoot (2008) & comedian JR Redwater (2009), were brought in as motivational speakers to help bring out the leader in each of our students for the symposium at the Silver Star the past two years. All CCHS students participated.
- ECHO performers presented to our juniors & seniors on Feb. 25, 2009. Performers consisted of Native Americans, Native Hawaiians & Native Alaskan Islanders.
- Student Council End of Year Pow-wow: CCHS has concluded the past two years with a student lead End of Year Pow-wow. Students partner with local Tribal pow-wow organizers to put on this authentic activity. This half day pow-wow includes traditional dancing, field activities & ends with a stickball game.
- Choctaw Literacy course: At least one section of Choctaw Literacy has been taught to CCHS students each semester for the past 10 years. Currently, 9 students are enrolled in the course.
- Choctaw History course: This 1/2 credit course is offered each semester. We currently have three sections of this course with a total enrollment of 29 students.
- Choctaw History classes took a field trip to Moundville, Ala., on Nov. 19, 2009.
- Mississippi State University Young Guns Summer Leadership Camps: For the past three summers we have had a total of 42 CCHS students participate in these camps. There are four one-week residential camps held each summer. At each of these camps, participants spend a day on the Pearl River Reservation & stayed overnight in our dorm.

During the visit they use

..........continued next page

Greatness!!
2010/01/22

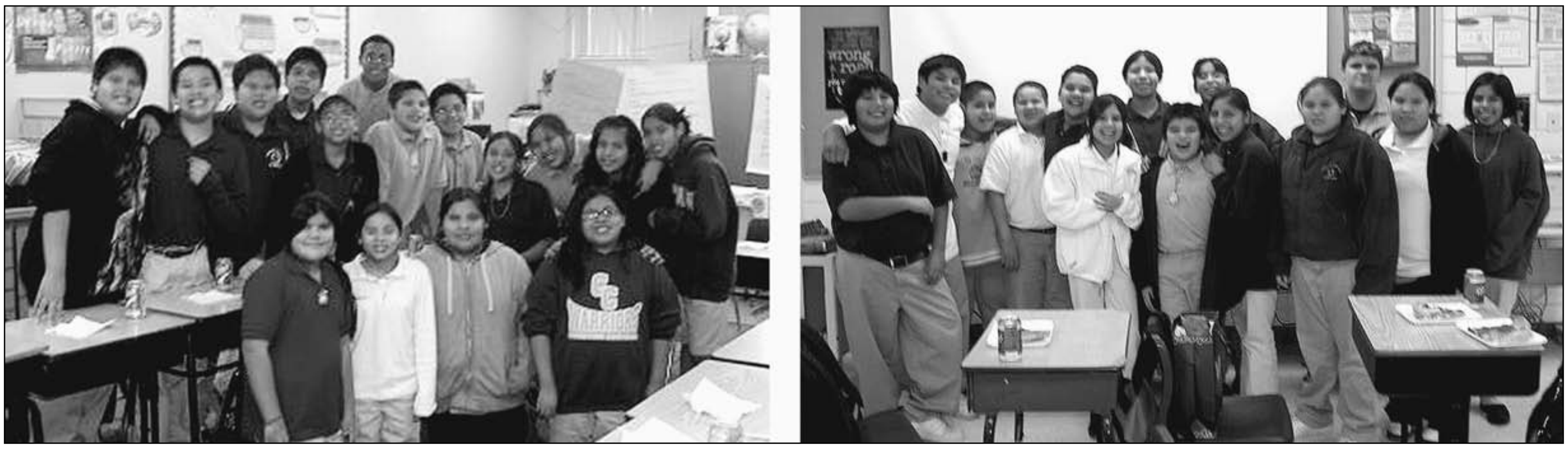
Greatness with Accelerated Points at Conehatta Elementary School

Conehatta Elementary School has been on a race with Accelerated Reader this year. Every class competes monthly for getting the most points and now those points have also added up to REWARDS!

Every child who gets 100 points is rewarded with a special T-shirt called “Reading is a Thrill”. It is a very prestigious prize because only nine (9) students have earned that level of reading.

The students will also be given a special breakfast with doughnuts and hot chocolate on Friday, Jan. 29. We are hoping that the size of this special group of students will grow as the year progresses.

Congratulations to Stephanie Shoemake (396 points), Emily Shoemake (102 points), Caleb Williamson (141 points), Isaiah Chickaway (132 points), Ashton Johnson (111 points), Casson Wilson (112 points), Javison Wilson (100 points), Layla Wishork (103 points), & Hunter Smith (111 points).



PRES sixth graders reach first semester Accelerated Reading goals

The sixth grade homeroom classes of Mrs. Gail Newell & Mrs. April Brown met their first semester Accelerated Reading goals & celebrated with a pizza party. **LEFT**, *Mrs. Newell’s students are Dylan Alex, Brooklyn Bell, Bryce Billy, Lakitia Chickaway, La Robin Clah, Stormin Dixon, Wilson Dixon, Pegan Jackson, Carlee Jimmie, Tiara Joe, Lattoriah Johnson, Montel Jordan, Nicholas McMillian, Cedrony Stevens, Brett Thomas, & Hananiah Tubby.* **RIGHT**, *Mrs. Brown’s students are Christin Bell, Kyree Bell, Drexler Chapman, Melody Charlie, Hallie Denson, Kelly Dumont, Justice Fielder, Tanesha Lewis, Imma-Bachi Mitch, Josiah Monk, Leandra Sam, Janeisa Steve, Adonis Willis, Anferee Willis, & Reanna Willis.*

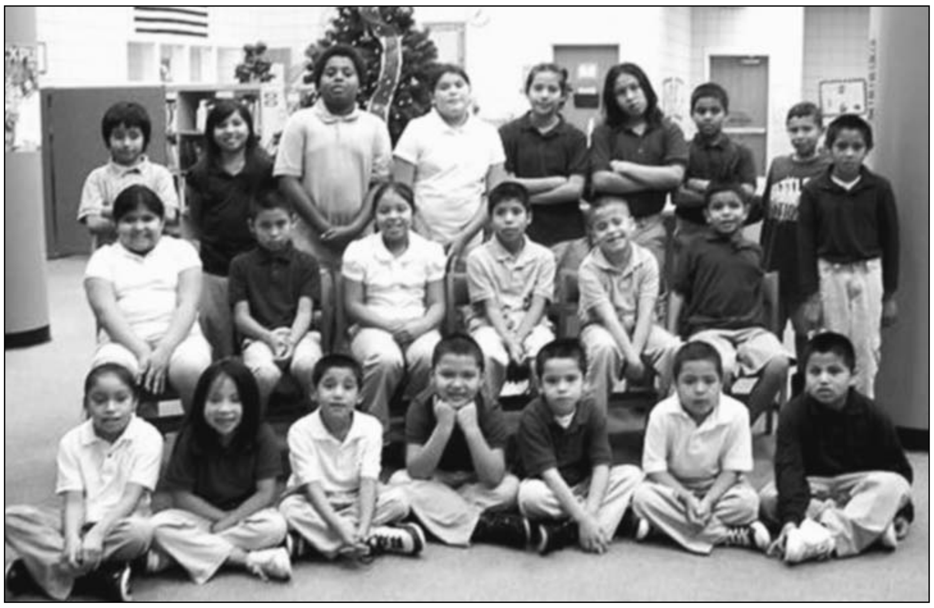
the ropes course & the Chahta Alla Youth Dancers introduce & perform traditional Choctaw dances for them. The CCHS student participants shared about cultural activities such as rabbit stick throwing & stickball.

- During the 08-09 school year, students participated in the opening of the Native American Studies Program at Southern University.
- CCHS students participated in the Nanih Waiya Mound ceremony when it was given back to the Tribal people.
- CCHS Theatre class is currently working on a presentation that will describe the reenactment of the creation story of the Choctaw people.
- CCMS Beta Club: Students make & present Choctaw beadwork, artwork, & other traditional Choctaw items at the State & National Beta Conventions. One of our students was a State & National winner this past year.
- CCMS Choctaw Language/Literacy Class: Students perform traditional dances & songs at our Christmas program each year.
- CCMS Choctaw Chorus: Students sing/perform traditional songs in native language throughout the year.
- Family and Child Education (FACE) at Pearl River Elementary: In a technical assistance site visit review from the National Center for Family Literacy in July 2009, the FACE program was commended for their strengths in teamwork & inclusion of culture. “Teamwork & culture remain as strengths in your program.”

The report also commended the overall program strengths in culture. “Choctaw culture is respected, celebrated & a foundation for instruction. Staff is respectful of the families’ heritage, tradition, & beliefs. Choctaw language is spoken throughout the day in all components. Choctaw is the Native language spoken in most of the homes & parents are encouraged to talk with their children in natural ways & situations using their Native language.”

All of these activities & initiatives within the Choctaw Tribal School System ensure that Choctaw culture is one of the components of success among students for instilling pride & self-esteem.

PRES November Students of the Month



The following Pearl River Elementary School students were selected as Students of the Month for November & were honored with a pizza party: Eli Joe, Conner Clemons, Jerious Wesley, Amaya McMillan, Taliyah Hickman, Alize Billy, Logan Mesteth, Jalen Williams, Colin Martin, Sammy Thomas, Joshua Isaac, Treyton Ben, Camille Dixon, Malia Burnside, Lauren Ben, LaChrisha Williams, Trushaun Berry, Dedrick Jordan, Merrick Hickman, Roberto Fonseca, Reanna Willis, Pegan Jackson, Marina Davis, Demarco Thomas, & Swan Sockey.

PRES present piano recital

Sixth grade music students of Mr. Pat Fiedler presented a piano recital on Dec. 18, 2009. Students performed a selection of Christmas music for their audience. Pictured from left are Reanna Willis, Hallie Denson, Imma-Bachi Mitch, Christin Bell, Adonis Willis, & Mr. Pat Fiedler.

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING FAIR DATES FOR 2010

CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS
LOCAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIRS

Standing Pine Elementary, January 15, 2010;
Choctaw Central Middle School, January 26, 2010;
Bogue Chitto Elementary, January 28, 2010;
Conehatta Elementary, February 4-5, 2010;
Pearl River Elementary, January 28, 2010;
Red Water Elementary, January 29, 2010;
Tucker Elementary, February 4, 2010.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS
DISTRICT SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIRS

Red Water Elementary School will host the District Science & Engineering Fairs on Feb. 11-12, 2010, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The District Lower Fair (grades K-6) is scheduled for Feb. 11. District Upper Fair (grades 7-8) is scheduled for Feb. 12.

MISSISSIPPI REGION V
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

Mississippi State University in Starkville will host the Mississippi Region V Science & Engineering Fair on March 11-12, 2010. The Region V Elementary Fair (grades K-6) is scheduled for March 11; the Region V Secondary Fair (grades 7-12) is scheduled for March 12.

MISSISSIPPI SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR - STATE FAIR

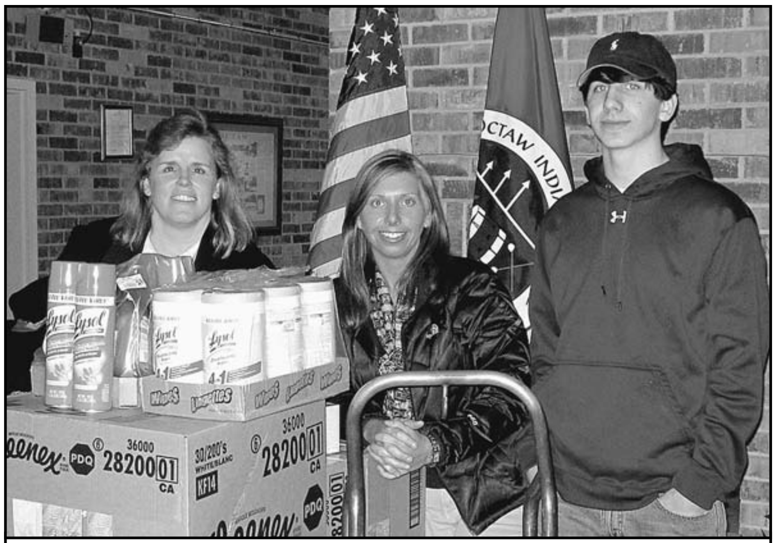
Mississippi State University in Starkville will host the Mississippi Science & Engineering Fair - State Fair on March 20, 2010.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

The International Science & Engineering Fair will be held in San Jose, California on May 9-14, 2010.

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

The National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair will be held in Albuquerque, NM on March 11-13, 2010.



Receives materials for H1N1 prevention

The Mississippi Department of Health, through the Office of Communicable Diseases, provided a $5,000 grant for the Choctaw Tribal Schools System to help in the prevention of the H1N1 virus. All eight of the schools in the Choctaw School System purchased materials - such as hand sanitizer, tissue, antibacterial soap, disinfectant wipes & sprays - to provide to classroom teachers in the prevention efforts. Sorting supplies were, pictured above from left, Division of Schools staff member Sherry Tubby, Conehatta School Nurse Tammy Evans & her son, John Corbin Evans.

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PHOTOGENIC !

PRETTIEST SMILE ! *MOST BEAUTIFUL !* *PRETTIEST EYES !*

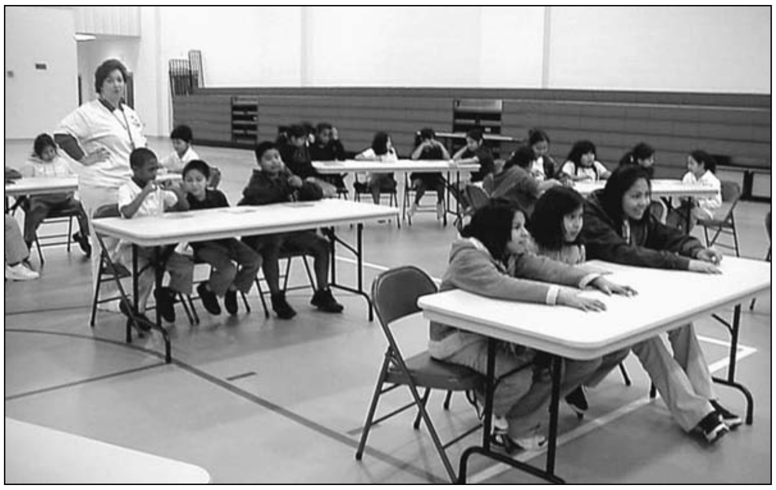
Pick Up Your Entry Form AND Enter Today!
Entry forms can be picked up at your local facility bldgs. schools or community daycare centers.

Deadline to enter is Feb. 05, 2010. All entries including fees must be received by Feb. 05, 2010. *NO EXCEPTIONS* !

Pageant Day is Saturday February 13, 2010 with registrations at 12:15 - 12:45PM
and Pageant beginning at 1:00PM.
At the Red Water Gym.

For more Information Email Pageant Director Vanessa Nickey at vanessa.nickey @yahoo.com
OR Vince at vince.nickey@yahoo.com

RWES students achieve AR goal



Red Water Elementary School rewarded students for achieving AR goals for the second nine weeks of school. Students played bingo for books & other prizes.

Congratulations to the following students: 2nd grade - Iverson Allen, Pernilla Arvizu, O'Rieon Bell, Michaela Dixon, Anna Flores, Octavious Jones, Aliyah King, Armando Lopez, Taezialin Tubby, Layla Willis; 3rd grade - Myric Anderson, Sheyann Bell, Justine Isaac, Keri Jim, Errol John, Japheth John, Reann Meely, Rayden Sockey, Catherine Tubby, Camryn Vivians, Malayiah Willis, Mercedez Wilson; 4th grade - Matthew Allen, Rey Barragan, Alana Billy, Tiara Cotton, Eric Dixon, Destinee Jones, Neshoba Reed, Jayshun Thomas, Catina Townsend, Sawyer Tubby; 5th grade - Jessalyn Williams, Rebekah Willis; 6th grade - Briana Wesley; 7th grade - Sydney Billy, Daelin Cotton, Selena John, Richanna Sockey, Nakeya Willis; 8th grade - John Evans & Kristin Josh.

Talks to RWES students about Diabetes

Nana Frazier taught PreK-8th grade students at Red Water Elementary about the causes, effects & prevention of Diabetes. She and co-worker Phala Steve are with the SDPI Diabetes Prevention Program. Nana is a Fitness Instructor & a Diabetes Prevention Specialist.

RWES HOSTS GRUB WITH GRANDPARENTS

Red Water Elementary School had a very special breakfast on Jan. 12, 2010 - Grub With Grandparents. Special thanks to Dianne Johnston & the RWES Cafeteria Staff for making this event a success. A very special thank you to all grandparents, parents & visitors who attended.

Captures December attendance trophy

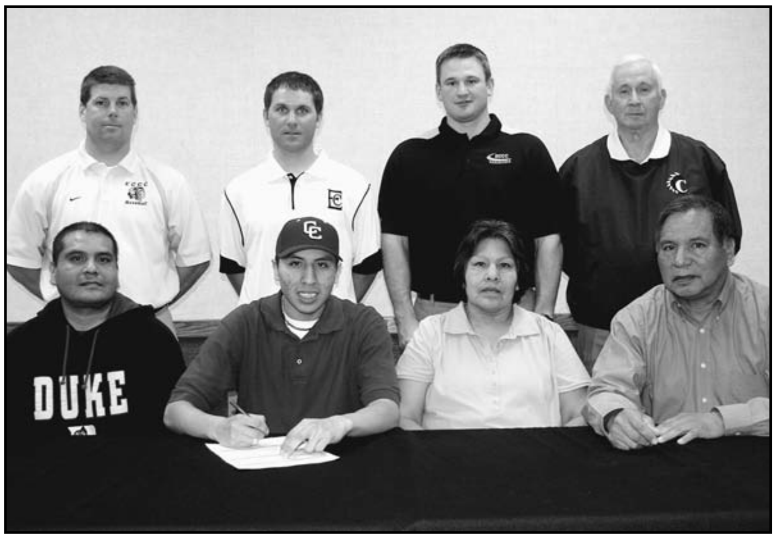
The eighth grade class at Red Water Elementary School captured the attendance trophy for outstanding attendance during the month of December. The class had an ADA rate of 98 percent. Congratulations to (from left) Delisa Chickaway, John Evans, Jennifer Olmedo (teacher), Kristin Josh, Sharissa Jefferson, & Peyton Willis. Not pictured is Miles Yazzie.

SPES Extended Day Tutoring

The Title VII Extended Day Tutorial class at Standing Pine Elementary School has been working very hard daily to increase student achievement in Language Arts this second semester. Mrs. Patch teaches eight students using hands-on learning resources along with many forms of technology. Students are selected for the program by test scores as well as teacher recommendation. Students enjoy working together & are seeing solid advances made. The second tutorial session continues until May 6. Mr. William Bell is the Title VII Program Coordinator.

Thomas signs with ECCC baseball squad

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) senior baseball standout Josh Thomas was among several area baseball players to sign letters of intent to continue their athletic careers next fall at East Central Community College (ECCC) in Decatur.

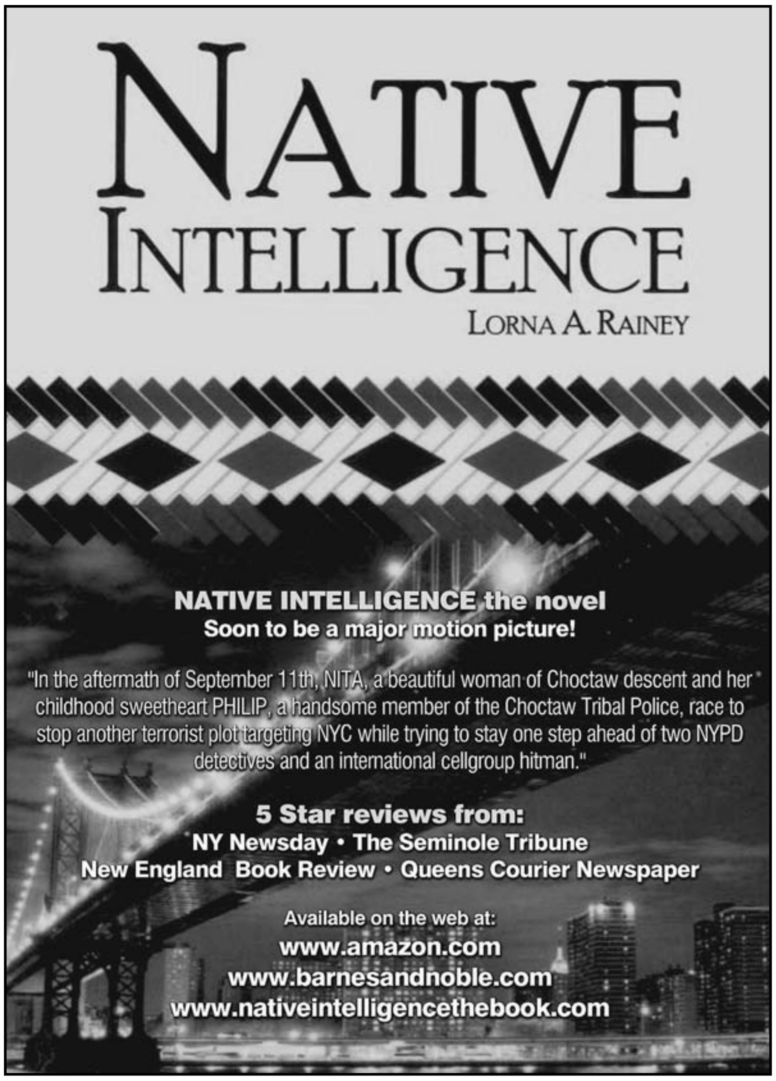


Pictured seated from left are father Jason Thomas, Josh Thomas, grandparents Velma & Jesse Thomas; back row, ECCC baseball head coach Neal Holliman, ECCC assistant coaches Hunter Vick, Michael Avalon, & CCHS baseball head coach Derwood Munn.

In conjunction with National Signing Day, the new members for the 2010-11 Diamond Warriors were joined by their high school coaches and family members for a special signing program held in the Gold Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on the ECCC campus on Friday, Jan. 15, 2010.

"I'm excited that I'm signing with ECCC and I believe it will be a great experience for me and my future. They

.........see SIGNING, pg. 16



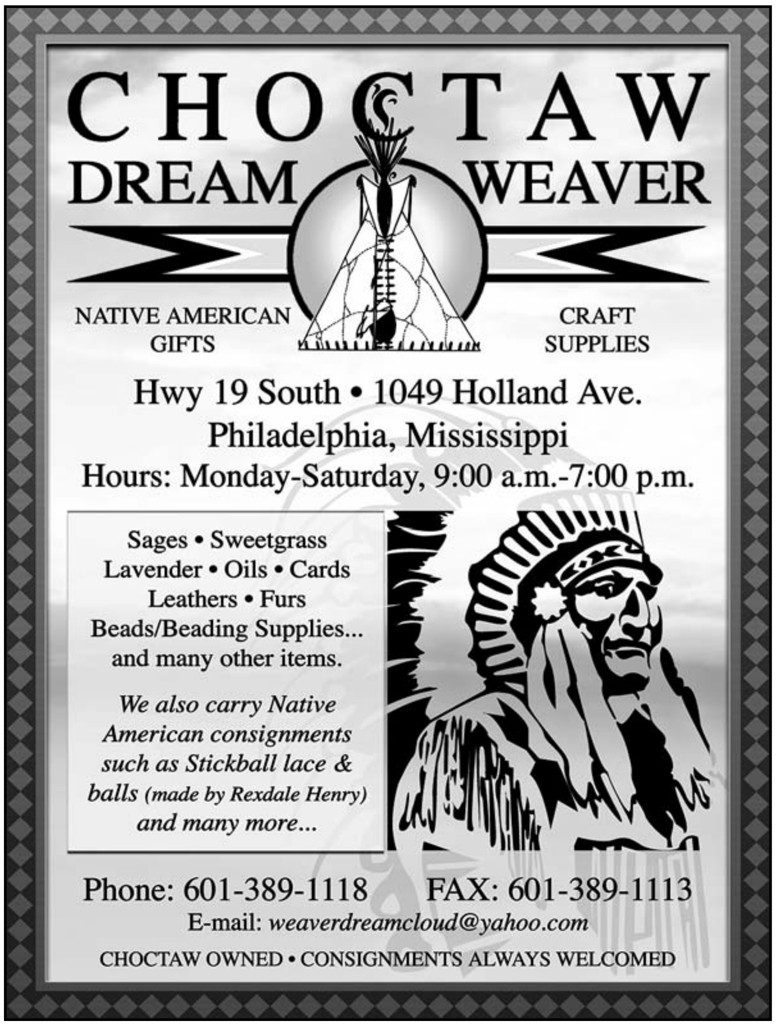
NATIVE INTELLIGENCE
LORNA A. RAINEY

NATIVE INTELLIGENCE the novel
Soon to be a major motion picture!

"In the aftermath of September 11th, NITA, a beautiful woman of Choctaw descent and her childhood sweetheart PHILIP, a handsome member of the Choctaw Tribal Police, race to stop another terrorist plot targeting NYC while trying to stay one step ahead of two NYPD detectives and an international cellgroup hitman."

5 Star reviews from:
NY Newsday • The Seminole Tribune
New England Book Review • Queens Courier Newspaper

Available on the web at:
www.amazon.com
www.barnesandnoble.com
www.nativeintelligencethebook.com



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CHOCTAW OWNED • CONSIGNMENTS ALWAYS WELCOMED

BAGS FIRST DEER

Congratulations to Brandis Johnson, pictured right, on his first deer kill on Dec. 27, 2009. With him is his proud brother, Kiezer Johnson.

Valentine Powwow Petal, Mississippi

February 13, 2010

Petal Civic Center /Relay Park - Rain or Shine!
Public Welcome

Come experience Native American Dance, music, crafts, memorabilia and foods!

Free Admission. This is a family event, no alcohol to be served or brought. Bring lawn chairs and a good attitude for fun.

For vendor information or directions to the Powwow, contact Heather or Curtis Waites at: Princess_Alyss_Heart@ymail.com OR cdeewaites@aol.com OR check for updates at www.petalpowwow.webs.com

Date and Location

Tentative Schedule:

10:00: "General Admission"
11:00: "Story Telling"
Noon: "Gourd Dance"
1:00: "Grand Entry"
5:00: *"Dinner"
5:00: "Activity TBA"
6:00: "Gourd Dance"
7:00: "Grand Entry"
10:00: "Close"

(This is a tentative schedule subject to change)
*Meal Provided for Dancers and Staff

Other Information:

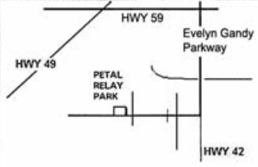
AD: Richard Whiteside
M-C: Ken Dixon
Drum Team: Yellow Moon
Head Man: Cocoa Creppel
Head Lady: TBA

RV Camping available behind the
Lynn Cartledge Multi-purpose center
on Hwy 49, south of Hattiesburg, Ms
(601)583-7500 pay at office 8am-5pm
$17 per night

Wagon Wheel Inn, 1870 Hwy42, Petal, Ms, 39465
(601)689-0071 Call for Reservations.
Event Rate $50 per night

Directions:

From Highway 59 North of Hattiesburg, take Exit 69, (Evelyn Gandy Parkway/Hwy 42) toward Petal. Cross over Highway 11 and take the first right onto Main St. Pass through 2 traffic lights and turn right into Petal Library/Relay Park.



2010 GARDEN SERVICES

The Ag & Rural Dev. help provide assistance to Tribal Members who wish to grow a garden in the Spring. The Dept. provides Disking, Rowing, to those who submit in an application.

Deadline for Garden Application is due on March 5, 2010.

You may pick up an application at the Dept. of Ag & Rural or at your community facility buildings. If you have any questions feel free to contact Samihah M. Jim or Brantley Willis @ 601-656-2070.

SIGNING .... continued from page fifteen

see a lot in me and have high expectations of me. The coaches really like me and wanted me to come out here so that had a lot to do with me choosing East Central. Another reason is that it is not too far from the reservation," said Thomas.

Thomas, a catcher and utility player for the CCHS Warriors baseball squad, has started every game since his freshman year.

"I know Choctaw Central hasn't had a winning season as of late, but it showed me we can make it through a lot of the adversity presented to us. It taught me to always go out there and give it my best, no matter what. They (ECCC) are expecting a lot out of me and I am up to the challenge and I believe I can succeed," Thomas said.

His extracurricular activities include being the CCHS student body president, senior class president, member of the 4-H Club, and member of the varsity basketball and football program.

In football, he was named to the 2009 All-Region 5-3A second team.

CCHS baseball head coach Derwood Munn said on their way to the signing he thanked Thomas for his leadership he provided during his high school career to not only his teammates, but the student body as well.

"The kids respect him and that tells me he is a good example to them. I love his leadership qualities and I think he will bring that and a lot more to ECCC. He is a good baseball player. He has good hitting skills and his defensive skills are strong. He has played some summer league ball and I think that

..........continued next page

Former softball standout Cotton signs with EMCC

Mercedes Cotton, seated center, signs a letter of intent to play softball at EMCC in Scooba. Seated on her left is her father, Robert Cotton. Standing from left is EMCC assistant softball coach Casey Finch & EMCC head softball coach Kate Neely.

Mercedes Cotton, a 2009 graduate of Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) and former softball standout, recently signed a letter of intent to continue her athletic

..........continued next page

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YAKOKI

The Department of Public Safety would like to thank Cyrus Ben and the Choctaw Office Supply for their contribution towards Toys for Chahta Alla Osi.

will benefit the team," said Munn.

The ECCC baseball program is led by head coach Neal Holliman and assistants Michael Avalon and Hunter Vick.

"This is the first day that we can add prospects into our program for the upcoming school year 2010-2011. We have eight guys here that will be joining our program is some shape, form or fashion. We are going to be adding some more signees as time goes on," said ECCC baseball head coach Holliman.

He added that the players signed will continue to mature and develop in the future and hopes that becomes the standard that is expected of them.

"We have a big freshman class and they are very talented. Only time will tell as to how good we will be, but our hopes are to compete at a national level," added Holliman.

Also signing with the ECCC Diamond Warriors were Mitchell Wooten, a right-handed pitcher/infielder/outfielder from Edinburg; Brock Ward and Evan Humphries, both right-handed pitchers, and Quarvis Jernigan, a left-hander hurler, all from Louisville; Dillon Alford, a left-handed pitcher and Zach Turner, a right-handed pitcher and utility player, both from Morton; and Garrett Clark, a left-handed pitcher from Union.

---

career at East Mississippi Community College in Scooba.

A signing ceremony was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at the CCHS Library in Choctaw as family and friends gathered in support of and to congratulate Cotton.

Barry Jim Sr. served as ceremony emcee as CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle welcomed everyone. CCHS softball coaches Lynda Hughes and Aaron Terrell spoke of Cotton's accomplishments during her high school career. Athletic Director Walter Wilson then closed the ceremony thanking Cotton for representing CCHS so well for the past four years. A reception followed afterwards.

Former CCHS teammate Sydney Tubby, currently a member of the EMCC Lady Lions softball team, was there to wish Cotton well and to welcome her to the team.

Also in attendance were EMCC softball coaches Kate Neely and Casey Finch.

Last spring at CCHS, Cotton was selected All-South State and All-District after leading the Lady Warriors with double-digit pitching victories on the mound and hitting around a .400 clip at the plate as a senior. She teamed with fellow EMCC softball signee Tubby to help lead head coach Mike Luke's 2009 CCHS squad to the program's first playoff appearance in five years with a 6-8 overall record.

Along with being named team MVP this past season, Cotton participated as a Class 1A-2A-3A North team member in the 2009 Mississippi high school slow-pitch all-star game.

Cotton was the 2009 CCHS Valedictorian. She also served as senior class vice president, junior class president, vice president of the Beta Club, and a member of the school's yearbook staff. In addition to earning the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award, Cotton was the 2009 recipient of the Raising Initiatives in Science and Engineering (RISE) Scholarship as awarded by Applied Geo Technologies, Inc.

She attended the University of Tennessee this past fall before deciding to return home to resume her softball career.

Mercedes is the daughter of Robert and Patricia Cotton of the Pearl River community.

Last season, the Lady Lions were 24-23 overall and 15-9 in the North Division of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges. They finished the season winning 10 of the last 13 decisions.

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300 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 106
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

The following is some of the tentative events we have scheduled for the second session of the school program.

Feb. 5 - Teen Night, Valentine's Party at the Pearl River B & G Club, 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Feb. 12 - King & Queen of Hearts Pageant, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Feb. 12 - Teen Night, Valentine's Dance & "Dating Violence" presentation.

Feb. 14 - Keystone & Torch appreciation field trip to the Dixie National Rodeo in Jackson.

Feb. 15 - Presidents' Day Holiday, Club closed.

Feb. 16 - Club open all day. Hours of operation, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Feb. 26 - Teen Night, presentation of Youth Court & Walnut Grove Correctional Youth Facility.

March 12 - Teen Night at the club.

SPRING BREAK WEEK! March 15-19, club hours are 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Presentations by Family Violence (ages 11-18) ALL WEEK.

March 16 - TORCH & Keystone members at the Choctaw Challenge Course.

March 26 - Teen Night.

Teen Center

The teens and staff would like to say "Thank You" to Mrs. Sharon Hockett with the Choctaw Health Department's Community Health. We appreciated the very informative presentation about "Sexual Responsibility and Pregnancy Prevention."

Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls teens came to our club for a 5-on-5 basketball tournament on Dec 18. The BC Boys & Girls took both 1st and 2nd place in the tournament. "Congratulations!"

Conehatta Boys & Girls Club members held a Winter Art Show on Dec. 16 as parents, guardians & family members enjoyed viewing the creativity of some of the club members.

Torch/Keystone/ Fan Club

We would like to say "thank you" to everyone who donated to our "Hats and Mittens Drive" as our community service project for Christmas. We sent the collected items to Choctaw Social Service for distribution.

Creative Expression

Our Winter Art Show was held on Dec. 16 and we had a pretty good turn out. Parents, guardians & family members who came in to pick up their child walked through the art show. Thank you to everyone who took the time to come show their member support. Also "Great job & thank you" to the members who proudly displayed their art work.

PEARL RIVER UNIT

Christmas Pageant

Pearl River Unit hosted a small Christmas pageant in the HYLAC Room on Dec. 18. Members did a great job for their pageant and audience participation.

Winners were: 2nd place - Keithan Billy & Genesis Ferris; 1st place - Asa & Elisah Keats; last but not least, Kelsy Billie was named crowd favorite.

Card Contest

AGT held its annual Birthday Card contest and members participated in the Tech Center. There were quite a few cute and creative drawings turned in on Dec. 18.

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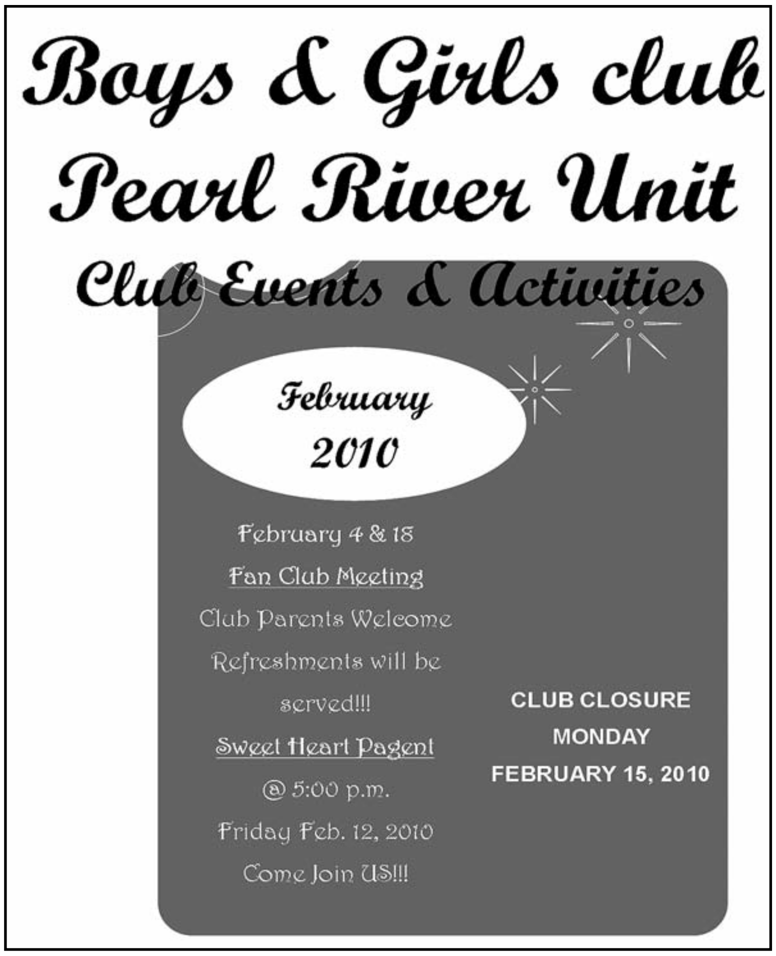
Participation

Some of our club staff participated the Toys for Tots event held on Dec. 5, 2009 and the Charity Bash Basketball Tournament on Dec.19 in the Bok Cito Community.



Boys & Girls club
Pearl River Unit
Club Events & Activities

February
2010

February 4 & 18
Fan Club Meeting
Club Parents Welcome
Refreshments will be served!!!

Sweet Heart Pagent
@ 5:00 p.m.
Friday Feb. 12, 2010
Come Join US!!!

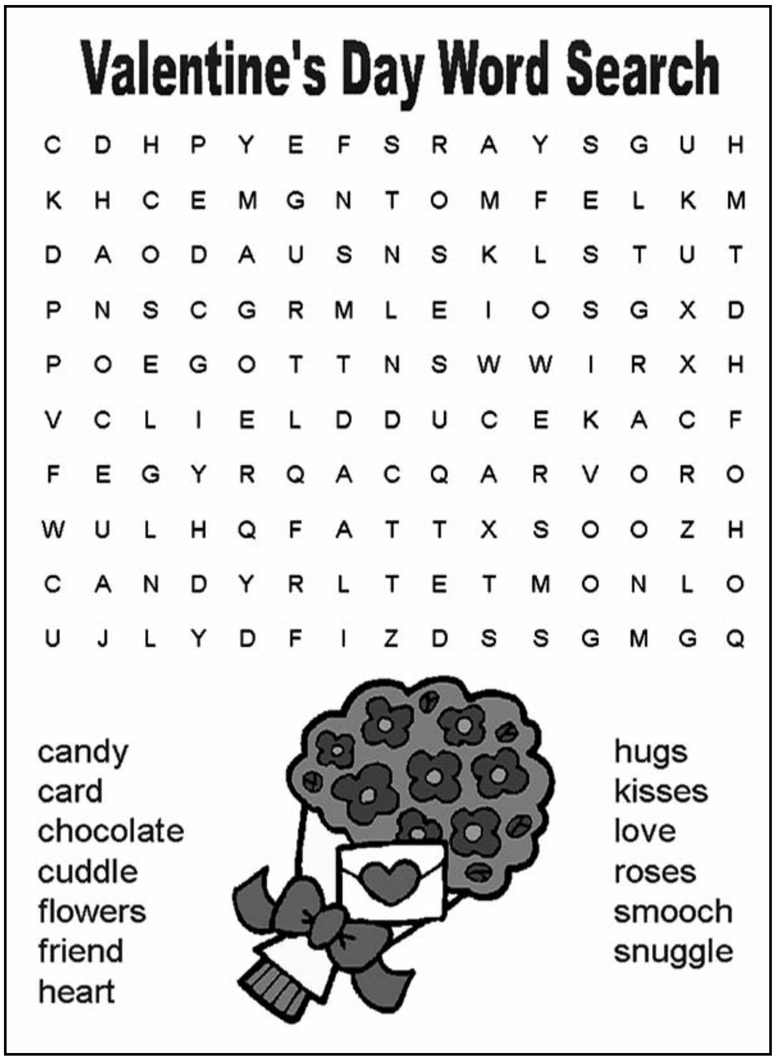
CLUB CLOSURE
MONDAY
FEBRUARY 15, 2010

Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center
A SAFE PLACE FOR CHOCTAW CHILDREN

Valentines Day is February 14. This day is set aside for exchange of love with sweethearts, friends, and family. Expressions of love such as Valentines Day greeting cards, boxes of chocolate, flowers, presents or special events mark the occasion.

Spending time together is an excellent way for parents and kids to spend Valentines Day. Enjoying a hobby together doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. It can be something as simple as reading together or playing card games.

Here is a Valentine Search (printed right) that you and your child can work together. Enjoy.



Valentine's Day Word Search

C D H P Y E F S R A Y S G U H
K H C E M G N T O M F E L K M
D A O D A U S N S K L S T U T
P N S C G R M L E I O S G X D
P O E G O T T N S W W I R X H
V C L I E L D D U C E K A C F
F E G Y R Q A C Q A R V O R O
W U L H Q F A T T X S O O Z H
C A N D Y R L T E T M O N L O
U J L Y D F I Z D S S G M G Q

candy
card
chocolate
cuddle
flowers
friend
heart

hugs
kisses
love
roses
smooch
snuggle

This publication was made possible through funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Dept. of Justice and Children's Justice Act Grant, Award # 2009-VI-GX-0004

Historic Conservation Wetlands

submitted by Tim Oakes,
NRCS-MS Choctaw Field Office

There are those who tell a story about how the Choctaw first came to be in this world. For it was many years ago I listened to the stories of Nanih Waiya and rode out to the place where the cave mound was located. Located in a wetland or swamp, Nanih Waiya is a very special place to many people.

> *"Will we ever begin to understand the meaning of the very soil beneath our feet? From a gain of sand to the great mountain, all is sacred. Yesterday and tomorrow exist eternally upon this continent. We native are guardians of this sacred place."*
>
> \- Peter Blue Cloud, Mohawk

Over the past few years, some valiant people have committed many hours of clean up at both mounds. Many people do not understand the importance or the function of these gifts that were entrusted to us to take care of by our grandfathers and grandmothers.

Like Nanih Waiya, sometimes people forget how important something is or what they can do to help. In order to understand our role as guardians of the earth, we need to understand more about wetlands.

A wetland is a place where land and water meets. It can have different habitats that can include ponds, swamps and boggy marshes. They stay wet most of the year.

Several students from the Choctaw Tribal School System, along with Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry and NRCS-MS Choctaw Field Office representative Tim Oakes, cut the ribbon opening the Discovery Wetlands in the Conehatta Community in November 2009.

Wetlands can be flooded each day or seasonally filled with water. We know that wildlife take advantage of these wetlands for drinking water, food and nesting. Wetlands are found along streams, lakes, and rivers and are often covered with shallow water.

Wetlands produce many plants that help with filtering our pollutants and making our water clean for drinking. We need to remember that wetlands provide a balance between man, animals and nature.

The NRCS-Mississippi Choctaw Field Office will continue to assist the Tribe and others with the USDA

...see WETLANDS, pg. 20

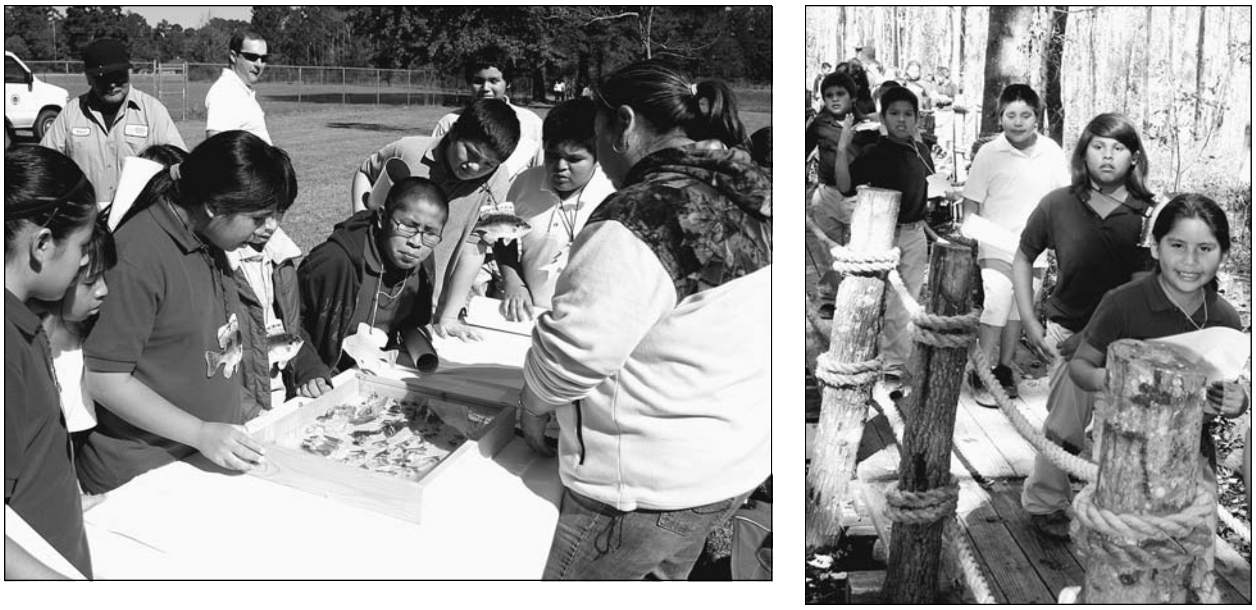
WETLANDS .... continued from page nineteen

NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Over the past few years, over $20,000 dollars in federal funding and $8,000 in MBCI matching funds have assisted in the development of projects for wetlands.

The Discovery Wetlands Project in the Conehatta Community will provide an outdoor classroom for student, teachers and those of us that love the outdoors.

I would like to thank the people of the Conehatta Community, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and his administration, MCBI Tribal Council, Natural Resources, Forestry, the 4-H Club of Conehatta, the Department of Wildlife and Parks, Choctaw Community News, Communications, Mississippi State University, Dalton Henry and his staff at the MBCI Division of Schools, and all of the other volunteers that assisted with this project.

For more information, please contact us at the NRCS-MS Choctaw Field Office at 601-656-9679.



LEFT, *Students check out an insect collection during the opening of the Discovery Wetlands in Conehatta.* **RIGHT**, *Students take a tour of the Discovery Wetlands.*

In Memory

MARY NELL CHICKAWAY

Funeral services for Mary Nell Chickaway, 58, were held Monday, December 21, 2009, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in the Conehatta Community. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Chickaway passed away Dec. 18 at her residence in Conehatta.

She enjoyed doing beadwork, making quilts & making Choctaw shirts. She was a member of the Catholic Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Otto & Frances Jefferson; brothers, Joe Jefferson, Beland Jefferson, Dale Jefferson, & Charles Jefferson Sr.; a niece, Felisha Thomas; & two nephews, James Jefferson & Sidney Chapman.

Survivors include her husband, Gary D. Chickaway; three daughters, Tonya Billie, Brandy Chickaway and Adrianna Chickaway, all of Conehatta; three sons, Hugh Billie Jr. of Belgium, WI, Jason Chickaway of Philadelphia & Brandon Chickaway of Conehatta; 13 grandchildren; two sisters, Ina Mae Steve of Choctaw & Janice Williams of Conehatta; three brothers, Joe Monroe Jefferson, Elvis Jefferson & Pee Wee Reese Jefferson, all of Conehatta; four aunts; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JAMIESON KENDALL TUBBY

Funeral services for Jamieson Kendall Tubby, 26, were held Thursday, January 7, 2010, from the family residence in the Bogue Chitto Community. The Rev. Robert Paul Tubby Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Sandy Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Tubby passed away on Jan. 2.

He was a member of the Sandy Hill Baptist Church. Jamieson enjoyed hominy, fishing, beadwork, playing on the computer, cooking for his mom, & being with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his adopted mother/grandmother, Roma Joe Bell; grandfather, J.D. Bell, Sr.; great-grandmother, Sally Noah Joe; great-grandfather, Jasper Joe; uncles, Jessie Bell, Nolan Bell, Sr. & Billy Bell; & aunts, Melanie Bell & Samantha Bell.

Survivors include his mother, Janine Bell of Philadelphia; two brothers, Arrol Bell & Marlon Bell, both of Philadelphia; four aunts, Hansy Bell, Glenda Bell, both of Philadelphia, Amanda Bell & Holly Sam, both of Louisville; three uncles, Wendell Bell, Gerald Bell, both of Philadelphia, & J.D. Bell Jr. of Louisville; a great-aunt, Hattie Joe of Choctaw; four nieces, two nephews, & numerous cousins.

LUCILLE ANN BILLIE

Funeral services for Lucille Ann Billie, 53, were held Saturday, January 9, 2010, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. The Rev. Henderson Williams officiated.

Burial was in the New Canaan Baptist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Billie passed away Jan. 6 at her residence.

She was employed with the Tribe holding various positions. She was a Vocational Rehabilitation Field Trainer for over 10 years before her retirement in 2008.

She enjoyed listening & singing gospel music, playing the piano & spending time with family and friends. She was a member of Canaan Baptist Church. She served as a past Association WMU Director & a member of the NCBA.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Oliver & Loretta Denson John; her first husband, Davis (Dave) Thomas; a half-sister, Elsena Tubby; & two nephews.

Survivors include her husband, Paul Billie; two daughters, Kimberly Thomas of Lawrence, Kan., & Kandice Thomas of Choctaw; two sons, Gregory Thomas & Davion Thomas, both of Choctaw; three stepsons, Jonathan Billie of Detroit, Mich., Sherman Billie & Michael Billie of Choctaw; two sisters, Gloria (Denson) Graves & Selma John, both of Lawrence, Kan.; a brother, Jimmy John Sr. of Choctaw; an uncle, Bonnie Denson of Choctaw; a great-aunt, Rosalie Sockey of Walnut Grove; 14 grandchildren; & a host of nieces & nephews.

IRENE WILLIAMS KING

Funeral services for Irene Williams King, 52, were held Saturday, January 9, 2010, from the Conehatta

..........continued next page

Community Gymnasium. The Rev. George Dixon officiated.

Burial was in the Chata Mission Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. King passed away Jan. 6 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She resided in the Conehatta Community all her life. She was employed at Hughes Aircraft for 12 years until the company was sold. She then became a homemaker.

She enjoyed attending church services. She was a member of the Spirit of Life Christian Center but was attending Macedonia Baptist Church.

She enjoyed singing & listening to gospel songs, reading her Bible, watching the Conehatta stickball team play, playing dominos, & spending time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Coy & Leona Williams; a sister, Sina Williams; & two granddaughters, Tannah M. Johnson & Jaliyah K. Williams.

Survivors include her husband, Hugh King of Conehatta; three daughters, Modina Johnson of Philadelphia, Natalie King & Kisha King, both of Conehatta; three sons, Kirk Williams of Philadelphia, Donovan King & Shane King, both of Conehatta; two step-children, Ted Johnson & LeAndrea Morris, both of Conehatta; a sister, Laurene Chapman of Conehatta; five brothers, Alvin Williams of Choctaw, Wilford Williams, Bobby Williams, Raymond Williams, & Steve Williams, all of Conehatta; 17 grandchildren; & a host nieces, nephews, cousins, & friends.

JAMES RILEY LUKE FRAZIER

Funeral services for James Riley Luke Frazier, 64, were held Sunday, January 10, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. The Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Frazier passed away Jan. 7 at his residence.

His hobbies included fishing & spending time with family & friends. He loved to demonstrate making stickball sticks to young children & every stick he made was with pride.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Tiger; brothers, Almon Wallace & Randy Frazier; sister, Bobby Frazier Dixon; uncles, Nephus Willis, Raymond Willis Sr., Clarence Willis, & Frazier Frazier; & two great-grandchildren.

Survivors include two daughters, Shirley Shoemake of Union & Veronica Frazier of Philadelphia; five sons, Freeman Frazier of Conehatta, James Ray Frazier, Kendall Frazier, Christopher Stoliby, all of Philadelphia, & Lucas Frazier of Stillwell, OK; three sisters, Clara Cotton, Carlene Mingo & Joann Wallace, all of Philadelphia; a brother, Don Frazier; a step-daughter, Shirley Ann Hickman; a great-aunt, Winchy Bell of Ripley, TN; seven grandchildren; & five great-grandchildren.

AMY ANDERSON CHAPMAN

Funeral services for Amy Anderson Chapman, 76, were held Tuesday, January 12, 2010, from the St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery in Tucker. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

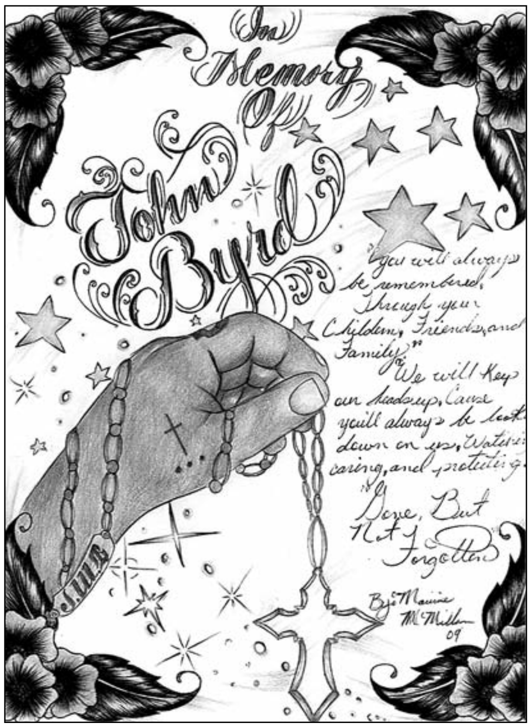
Mrs. Chapman passed away Jan. 9 at the Rush Specialty Unit in Meridian.

She was a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church. She enjoyed spending time with family & friends.

She was a homemaker for most of her life. Her hobbies included making round combs & silver collar necklaces. She enjoyed attending the Choctaw Fair, playing washers, & attending house dances & various community events.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John E. Anderson & Sally McMillan; a daughter, Annie Lynn Tubby; a son, Anthony Alex; a brother, Joe Carl Anderson; & three husbands, Nelson Alex, Albert Chickaway & Ralston Chapman.

Survivors include a special companion, R.J. Willis; three daughters, Lounette Alex, Katrina Alex & Marissa Chapman; a son, Bradley Alex; four step-daughters, Mary E. John, Annie Pearl Chapman, Vivian Chapman, & Nora Chapman; a sister, Mary Sealy Willis of McCalister, Okla.; an aunt, Pauline Hickman of Oakland, Calif.; 14 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews & relatives.


In Memory Of
John Byrd
"You will always be remembered, Through your Childern, Friends, and Family."
"We will Keep our heads up, Cause you'll always be look down on us, Watchi caring, and protecting."
"Gone, But Not Forgotten"
By: Maxine McMillan 09

STEVE WILLIAMS

Funeral services for Steve Williams, 48, were held Thursday, January 14, 2010, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Williams passed away Jan. 11 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was a member of St. Catherine Catholic Church.

He was employed with the Pearl River Resort as a Houseman. His hobbies included fishing, playing washer throws, playing cards, and being around family & friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Coy & Leona Williams; two sisters, Sina Willis & Irene King; a nephew, a niece & three great-nieces.

Survivors include his common law wife, Mary Sue Jefferson; two stepdaughters, Jessica Arauz & Lahoma Thomas, all of Conehatta; a stepson, Derick Thomas of Okeechobee, Fla.; a sister, Laurene Chapman of Conehatta; four brothers,

see OBITUARIES, pg. 22

TO MY LOVING SON IN HEAVEN ABOVE

MR. HAROLD BRANT WILLIS, SR.

SUNRISE: DEC. 31, 1968
SUNSET: NOV. 16, 2009

FOREVER IN A DAY

Son, I never wanted you to see me cry because you look up to me for love, strength & care. Everything I've done, it was because I love you & the best I could do to prepare you for your meeting with God.

Son, every plan revolves around God & his holiness so he came for you. I had to let you go. The hurt & pain I feel is only for a little while but you are healed forever & you are at home.

Son. you are always such a blessing to those of us here & we shall truly be grateful for you. Through the lives of your beloved children, we see a part of you still carrying on with the good fight.

Son, thank you for the wonderful smiles you put on our faces & the unforgettable memories you made with us all. Above all, you will forever be a great son, father, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, & a true friend.

Son, until that beautiful day comes, I will always love you & miss you, forever in a day.

Love always,
Mom
Mrs. Susie Jane Willis

OBITUARIES

continued from page twenty-one

Welford Williams, Bobby Williams Sr., Raymond Williams, all of Conehatta, & Alvin Williams of Philadelphia; eight grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

INFANT ANDERSON

Funeral services for Infant Anderson were held Saturday, January 23, 2010, from the residence of Craig & Daphne Anderson in Conehatta. The Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the I Sleep Cemetery in the Bogue Chitto Community.

Infant Anderson was stillborn on Jan. 21 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

Infant Anderson was preceded in death by grandfathers, Bennie Bell & James Johnson Jr.; uncles, Savalas Anderson & James Lee Earl Anderson; & a cousin, Tali Duran Anderson.

Survivors include parents, Blake Anderson & Lindsey Bell; grandparents, Geraldine Anderson & Oree Billy; a great-grandmother, Cutie Mae Jefferson; aunts, Melissa Jim & Marisa Anderson; uncles, Craig Anderson, Angelo Bell, Winslow Bell, & Julius Billy; & a host of relatives.

JAMES JACKSON

Funeral services for James Jackson, 66, were held Sunday, January 24, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jackson passed away Jan. 22 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was a lifelong member of Bogue Chitto Baptist Church.

He was employed as a grounds maintenance person with the Tribe. In Sept. 2002, he became a resident of the Choctaw Residential Center.

He loved to play his guitar for house dance music, making jokes, singing gospel songs, & playing his guitar for various church groups.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carson & Amy Jackson; & his brother, Amos 'Frog' Jackson.

Survivors include a niece, Mary Briscoe; & a host of relatives & friends.

"ABUNDANT LIFE"

John 10:10

[10]The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

In this passage, Jesus talks about how to gain access to eternal life. It is only through Him that you are able to receive Salvation, there's no other way. However, God not only wants you to be saved to go to heaven, he also wants you to have and enjoy life while you are here on earth. He wants you to have it in abundance, to the full, till it overflows (the good life). I encourage you to receive salvation and trust God with all of your heart and let Him teach you how to gain access not only to heaven but also to the abundant life that He desires for you to have.

- Pastor Thomas Ben

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Come join us.....

Sunday
10:00 am

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6:30 pm

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 14th Birthday to Miss Renedra D. Thompson on Feb. 23, 2010, with love, hugs & kisses from your Mom & the Dynamic Duo - Haylen & Hayden.

Happy 21st Birthday to Josh King on Feb. 12 & Happy Birthday to Matthew Evans who turns 18 on Feb. 25, from "everyone who loves you!"... Happy Birthday to Lavada Jim on Feb. 13.

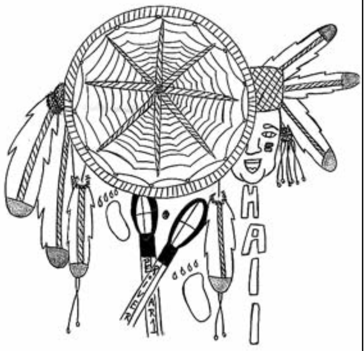
Happy Birthday to Daisyanna John on Dec. 31 & Happy Birthday to Duane John Jr. on Jan. 2, from Mom... Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to my kids - Daisyanna, Duane Jr., Bobby, Delkembee, & Quinton John. I miss you & I love you.

Happy 47th Birthday to Terry Billie.

Happy Birthday Garian H. Dixon on Feb. 8, from Shay, Jay, Selbrey, Brandon, Andrick, Selby, Glen Jr. & family. Love always, Dad.

Happy 17th Birthday Son.

Happy 4th Birthday to Cory Hall Jr. on Jan. 31, from Dad Cory Hall Sr., Mom Stacy Goodin, big sister Marylee Ann Hall, family, & friends.



Happy Birthday to Deehes on Feb. 8, from Cory, family & friends. Happy 20th Birthday. May God be with you. Love from Boy & friends. -Cory Hall Sr. #47

Deehes
Willis
2010

Happy Birthday to our pops, Manuel Van King, on Feb. 4, from the boys, Man & D-Man... Happy Birthday "Brother-in-Law", from Chub, "Matida".

Happy Valentines Day Mom, "Patty Carol Jefferson." I love you, from Chub & to Barbarella Ann & Vera Ann. Miss ya'll too, from Demanuel King.

Happy 6th & 5th Birthdays to my babies, Melody Syrese on March 6 & Antone Duran on April 12. Love ya'll kids & miss you. Love always, Daddy... Happy Birthday to Barbarella Ann "Bunny" on Feb. 8, from Arman Duran & Demanuel Deron King.

Happy Birthday to a very special person of mine with love, "Barbarella Ann", on Feb. 8. Love ya 'Beautiful' & miss you. I may not be there with you in person, but I'm there with you in spirit. Love ya baby... Happy Birthday Beautiful.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Chasden Ridley Martin on Jan. 29 & Happy Birthday to Abbie Chapman on Jan. 18, from Riah, Alley, Leah, & the rest of the family.

Happy Belated Birthday to the following people - Sally Jim on Dec. 1, Alisha Gail & Roxann Jim on Dec. 4, Bernon "Bear" Shoemake on

.........continued next page

Dec. 7 & Patsy Monk on Dec. 28, from Loretta, Mack, Thomas, Ashanti, & the rest of the family.

Happy Birthday to Mark C. Jim on Jan. 13, from Loretta, Thomas & Ashanti...Happy Birthday to Lucielle Steve on Jan. 13, from your family...Happy Birthday to Janice McDuffie on Jan. 4...Happy Belated 11th Birthday to Trinity "Trin" Elise Steve on Dec. 2, from your loving family.

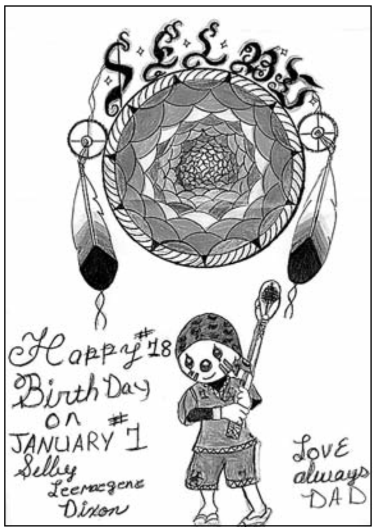
Happy Belated Birthday to my son, Dregen Lee Denson, on Dec. 31, 2009. I love you, from Mom... Happy Birthday Daddy & Grandpa, Ricky L. Denson, on Jan. 17, from your kids & grandkids... Happy Birthday to Dallas Shomake, on Feb. 8. Love you.

Happy Belated 15th Birthday to Tyler Keith on Jan. 4. Love, from the family.

Happy 12th Birthday to Lashuntia Dawn on Feb. 22. Love, Mom, Dad, Jessiah, & the rest of the family.

Happy 8th Birthday to Dekeon Kirk, from Mom, Raven & the rest of the family.

Happy Birthday to our Mom, Lois Jeanne Tubby, on Jan. 15, from Darisa, Jaylyn, Alex, Destin, Karla, Tyneisa, & the rest of the family.



Happy Birthday to my Dad, Shane A. Bell Sr., on Feb. 2.

Happy Birthday to Henry C. Farmer. Thanks for always being there. I know we don't show it much, but thanks. Love, Mina & E.

Elbert Stevens & Domina Ben send a Happy Belated Birthday Wish to Stephanie Farmer on Jan. 19. Love u Mom & hope the best to come in the future - grow younger. From your son-in-law.

Happy 49th Birthday to Henry C. Farmer on Feb. 26, from Steph & kids (Kitisha, Latina, Domina, Justin, Brannon, Baby Kaden, Dejon, & Demahn). DON'T OVER DO IT!

Happy Birthday to Dan T. Willis on Feb. 24. Don't over do it! From your niece & nephew (Domina Nicole & Justin Bryce).

Happy 9th Birthday to Nichasie Milloy Smith on Feb. 25. With love from your mom, sisters, bro, & the rest of the family.

Happy Belated 69th Birthday to our Papo Percy L. Solomon on Feb. 2 & Happy Belated 44th Birthday to our Dad Ronald Jim Sr. on Feb. 12, from Ronan & Ronald Jim Jr.

Happy Belated 69th Birthday to our Dad Percy L. Solomon & Happy Belated 44th Birthday to our Uncle Darryl R. Solomon Sr., from Davin Solomon & Shelly Jim.

VALENTINE'S DAY 2010

It is through love that I write this to the women who hold a very special place in my heart. There is nothing or no one that can take the place of you all & I sincerely do appreciate your love.

Whether you know it or not, all of you play a tremendous role in making my life a blessed one. It is with a heart-felt smile & love that I take this time to say, "Thank You."

Never forget that we may be many miles apart, yet you are all held dearly here in my heart, thoughts & prayers. May God bless you all & keep you close always.

I love you all & I miss you all! To the women in the Jim & Willis Families - my aunt, sisters, sister-in-law, nieces & cousins.

Love always,
Jared Jaye Jim

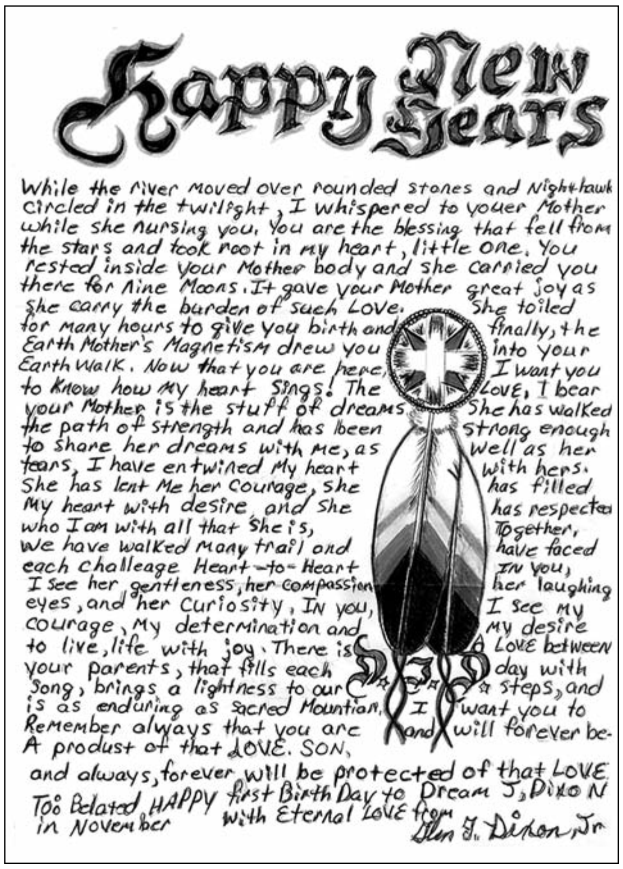
Happy Belated Birthdays to the following in Jan. - Janice MsDuffie on the 4th, Mark C. Jim & Lucille Steve on the 13th, from your loved ones.

Happy Belated 9th Birthday to Tatiania Blaine Willis on Feb. 3, from your family.

Happy Belated Birthday to the following in Feb. - Claude "Sonny" Jim Jr. on the 6th, Terry Jim on the 12th, Brian Charlie on the 14th, Sherry Jim on the 17th, & also to Loretta on the 28th, from Mark, Ashanti, Thomas, & the rest of the family.

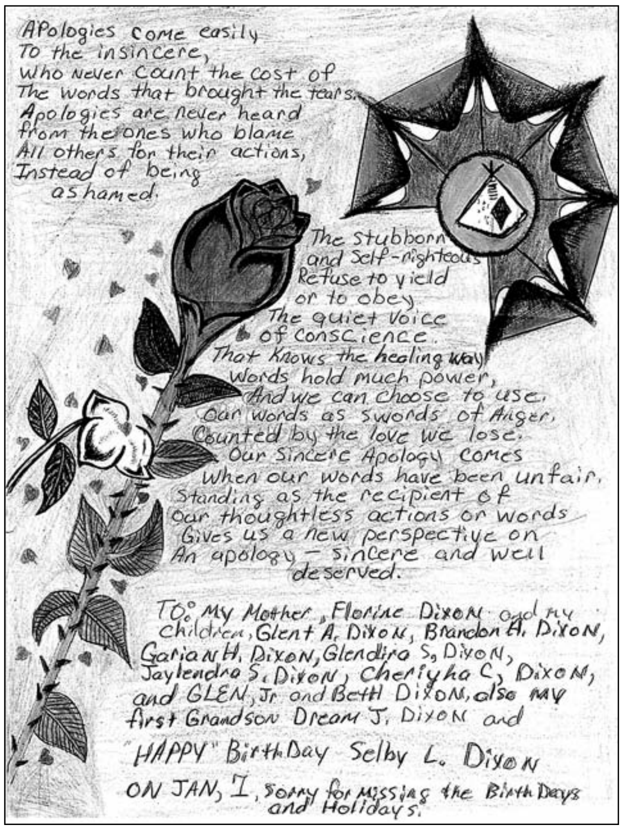
Happy Belated Valentine's Day to my family, from "Poncho."

see BIRTHDAYS, pg. 24



Happy New Years

While the river moved over rounded stones and Nighthawk
circled in the twilight, I whispered to youer Mother
while she nursing you. You are the blessing that fell from
the stars and took root in my heart, little one. You
rested inside your Mother body and she carried you
there for nine Moons. It gave your Mother great joy as
she carry the burden of such Love. She toiled
for many hours to give you birth and finally, the
Earth Mother's Magnetism drew you into your
Earth Walk. Now that you are here, I want you
to know how my heart Sings! The Love, I bear
your Mother is the stuff of dreams She has walked
the path of strength and has been strong enough
to share her dreams with me, as well as her
tears, I have entwined my heart with hers.
She has lent me her courage, she has filled
my heart with desire, and she has respected
who I am with all that she is, Together,
we have walked many trail and have faced
each challeage Heart-to-Heart In you,
I see her gentleness, her compassion her laughing
eyes, and her curiosity, In you, I see my
courage, my determination and my desire
to live, life with joy. There is A Love between
your parents, that fills each day with
song, brings a lightness to our steps, and
is as enduring as sacred Mountian. I want you to
Remember always that you are and will forever be-
A produst of that LOVE. SON,
and always, forever will be protected of that LOVE
Too Belated HAPPY first Birth Day to Dream J, Dixon
in November with Eternal LOVE from
Glen J. Dixon, Jr



Apologies come easily
To the insincere,
Who never count the cost of
The words that brought the tears.
Apologies are never heard
from the ones who blame
All others for their actions,
Instead of being
ashamed.
The stubborn
and Self-righteous
Refuse to yield
or to obey
The quiet voice
of conscience.
That knows the healing way
Words hold much power,
And we can choose to use
Our words as swords of Anger,
Counted by the love we lose.
Our Sincere Apology comes
when our words have been unfair,
Standing as the recipient of
our thoughtless actions or words
Gives us a new perspective on
An apology – sincere and well
deserved.

TO: My Mother, Florine Dixon and my
children, Glent A. Dixon, Brandon A. Dixon,
Garian H. Dixon, Glendiro S, Dixon,
Jaylendra S. Dixon, Cheriyha C, Dixon,
and GLEN, Jr and Beth Dixon, also my
first Grandson Dream J. Dixon and
"HAPPY" BirthDay Selby L. Dixon
ON JAN, 1, sorry for missing the BirthDays
and Holidays.

To Our Wonderful Brother, Mr. Davis Jim, on his Birthday on Feb. 20, 2010

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE OUR BROTHER

Dear Brother,

You wonder about a lot of things & we know how you feel. We write you this note to show you just how much you mean to us. We are very thankful to Dad & Mom for blessing us with you.

When you are weak, we are there to be you strength. We are here to help carry your load so it won't be too heavy for you. Cry if you must & we'll be here to catch those tears from falling. Should you ever feel sad, count on us to make you happy. Don't give up because you have us for support.

When times get rough, let us be your reminder that it gets greater later. Continue to move forward because we're behind you the whole way through. Don't stress & worry for we'll do that for you... And just when you think you're wrong, we'll be there to make it right.

No matter what it may be, know that you are never alone because there's always the seven of us with you, including God. We love you & pray for you daily. God bless you & have a wonderful Happy Birthday!

With love,
your sisters & brothers,
Mrs. Thelma Barnes
Ms. Daisy Jim
Mrs. Peggy Davis
Mr. Jimmy Jim
Mr. Barry Jim, Sr.
Mr. Jared Jim

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NEWS

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FEBRUARY 2010

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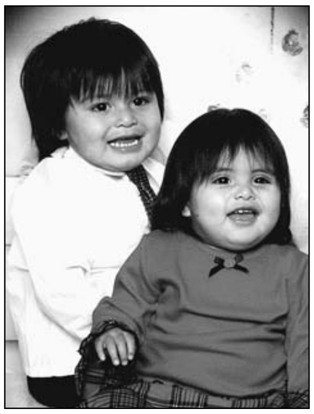
BIRTHDAYS .... continued from page twenty-three

Congratulations to Rodney Sr. & Brenda Ray on the birth of their newborn son, Bentley Suede Ray, on Jan. 6, 2010. He weighed in at 7 lbs., 9 ozs.



Happy Belated Birthday to Danarion M. Johnson who turned 2 on Jan. 4 & Happy 1st Birthday to Miss Milee Shayne on Feb. 2. With lots of love, hugs & kisses from your Mom & Dad, brothers & sisters, Gram, Mamo & Papo Joe, Bre, G & Elliot, & "Tish & Jerry."

We welcome our new baby boy to the family. Jaston Nakai Bell, "our lil Chonney Boi", was born on Sept. 9, 2009, at 9 p.m. at Jeff Anderson, from your Mom, Papo, Ton, Alex, & Kade.

Happy Belated Birthday to Nancy Willis on Jan. 7, from your family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Mike Stell on Jan. 13 & Kelsie Steve on Feb. 15, from your family.

Happy 18th Birthday to Saphire Marquez on Feb. 20, 2010, from Mom, Dad & brother Giovanni. We love you!

Happy Birthday to our big girl Relissia Ray on Jan. 16, from Mom, Dad, Danny, Brekaitya, Rodney Jr., Melody, Grandpa & Grandma Morris.

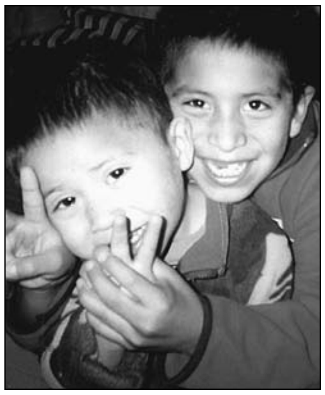
Happy Belated 6th Anniversary to Shelly & Ronald Jim Sr. on Feb. 21, from Davin Solomon.

Happy 17th Anniversary to Jason Marquez on Feb. 12, 2010, from your wife, Lana Marquez.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Emily Jones, from Tia Na-Na, Uncle Jay, cousins Saphire & Giovanni.

RIGHT, *Happy Belated Birthday to Kaden Lane Bell, who turned 4 years old on Oct. 4, 2009, & a Belated Birthday to Alexander Kent on Dec. 19, 2009. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Love always from your sis & nephew, Jaston.*

HAPPY BELATED ANNIVERSARY TO PATSY & ALON MONK ON DEC. 4.



PICTURED LEFT, *Happy 1st Anniversary to Pollyanna & Gordon Willis Jr. on Feb. 21, 2010! Lots of love from family & friends!*

Happy 4th Birthday to our son, Braylan Rayne Hickman, on Feb. 9. Love, Dad & Mom, your sister Brittany & your brothers Daynon & Gary.

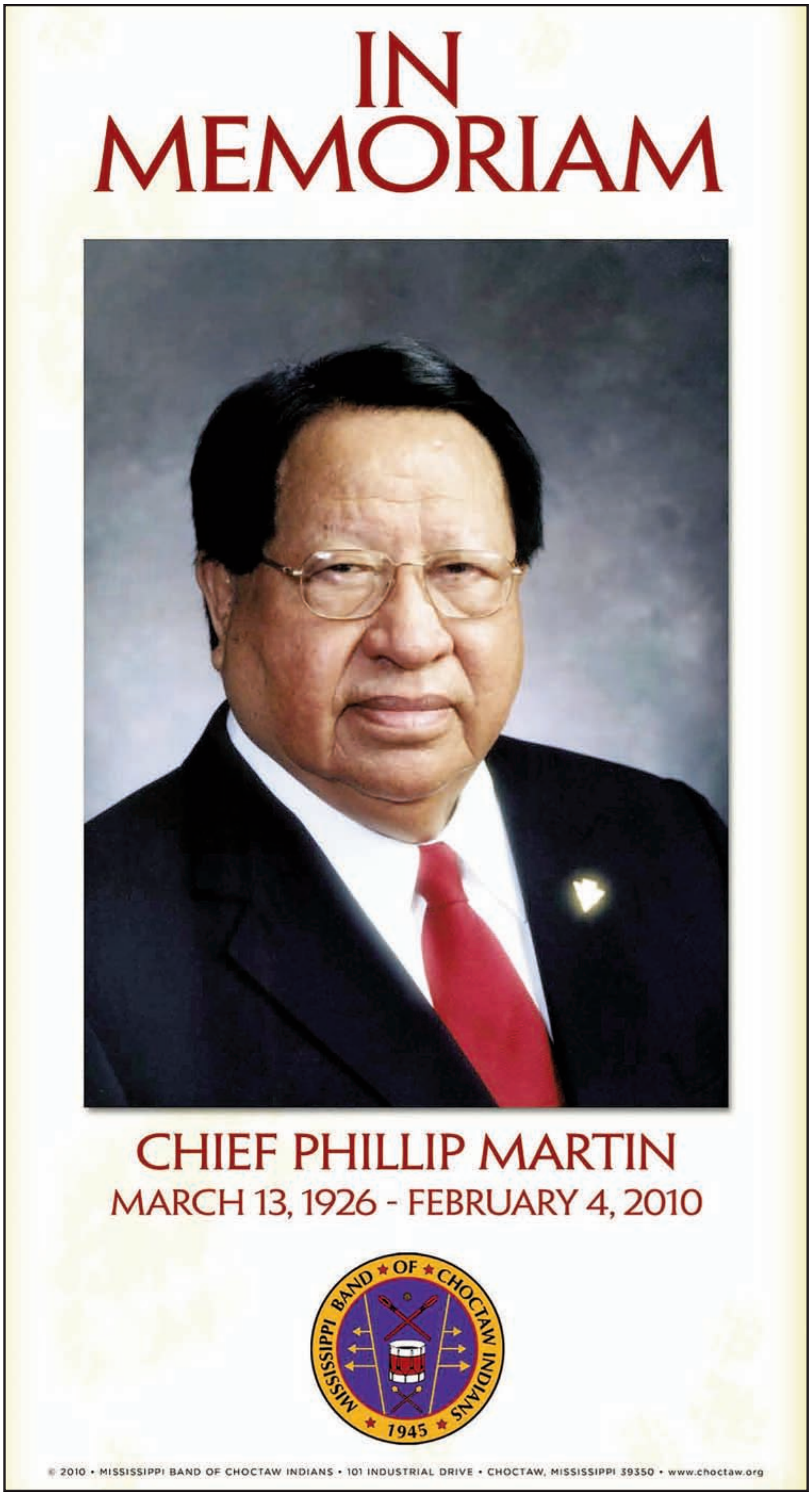
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO HENRY C. & STEPHANIE FARMER *on Feb. 26. We never know or fully realize how sweet, kind, gentle, & wise our parents are. We simply take for granted the day to day sacrifices they make for us in their own loving way. But then we grow & finally learn the way that children do how much their love has really meant & how thoughtful they've been. So, this comes with all the thanks you both deserve & many more. For there isn't any dearer parents than the both of you.* ***Happy 6th wedding Anniversary to the both of you.*** *From all of us (Latina, Sly, Baby Kaden, Mina, Justin, Kitisha, Brannon Jayce, Dejon, & Demahn).*

Happy Anniversary to two special people in our lives - Mr. Henry & Mrs. Stephanie Farmer. We love you & hope there's more years to come.
Love, Mina & E.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 3 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 MARCH 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS



IN MEMORIAM

CHIEF PHILLIP MARTIN

MARCH 13, 1926 - FEBRUARY 4, 2010

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TRIBE MOURNS PASSING OF FORMER CHIEF PHILLIP MARTIN, 83

The sounds of solemn Choctaw drums bellowed in the distance as a motorcade procession carrying the body of former Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Chief Phillip Martin made its way down Highway 19 South to his native community of Tucker, located 7-miles southeast of Philadelphia, and to Holy Rosary Catholic Church where a funeral mass was held on Monday, February 8, 2010.

Martin, 83, of the Pearl River Community, passed away Thursday evening, February 4 at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson due to complications from a massive stroke he suffered on February 1.

Nearly 1,000 mourners - including officials from the local, state and national levels - braved the cold weather to pay their final respects to a man simply known as "Chief" as members of the Mississippi Military Funeral Honor Guard carried his flag-draped casket into the 180-seat capacity church.

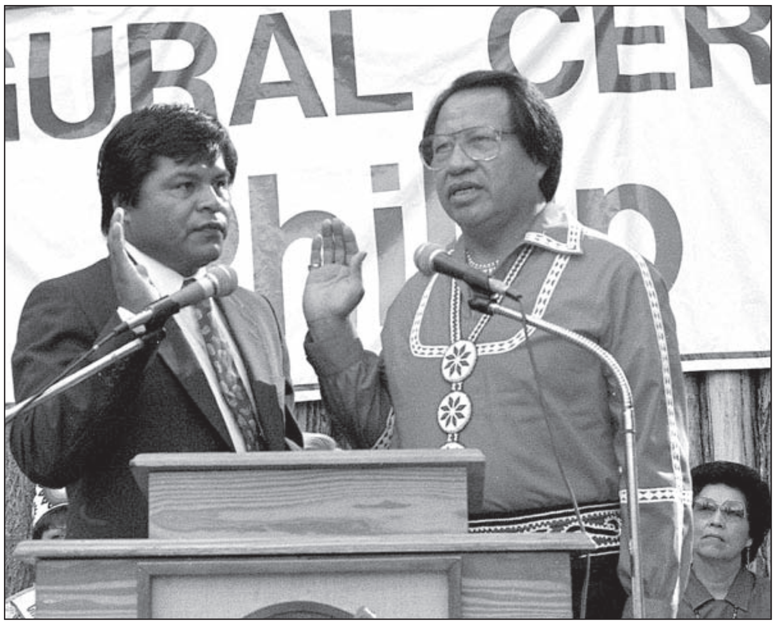
Across the church, school children held up a banner, "Tucker Elementary honors the memory of Chief Martin,"

...........see CHIEF MARTIN, pg. 4

Members of the Mississippi Military Funeral Honor Guard carry former Tribal Chief Phillip Martin's flag-draped casket from the hearse into the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in the Tucker Community outside of Philadelphia. Martin was a veteran of the U.S. Army and Air Force. Over 1,000 mourners paid their respects during a funeral mass held on Monday, Feb. 8. Burial was in the church cemetery.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MI̱KO BEASLEY DENSON

Beasley Denson



Phillip Martin, right, was inaugurated to his first term as Chief in 1979. Administering the oath of office was then-Secretary/Treasurer Beasley Denson. In the background is Martin's wife, Bonnie.

Photo courtesy The Neshoba Democrat Copyright 2010 used with permission.

THE PASSING OF CHIEF

When Chief passed away on February 4th it was a loss felt across the Reservation and beyond. Indian Country lost a relentless advocate, a powerful voice in the halls of power and a man whose name became synonymous with the concept of self-determination.

The state of Mississippi lost a cultural icon and the person responsible for creating an economic engine and thousands of jobs where there had been few. Chief not only changed the landscape of Pearl River; he changed many minds as well. Chahta lost an inspirational and a visionary leader, the man who brought our Tribe out of poverty, diversified our economy, rewrote our constitution, made higher education available to our youth and set us on the path to where we are today.

The Martin family lost a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather that they so graciously shared with us for so long. I lost a mentor and a friend.

The list of his accomplishments is long and is well known by all of us who have benefitted from them. The list of awards and honors bestowed on him were no surprise to those of fortunate enough to have had a front row seat from which to watch him bring his considerable skill and vision to bear on Tribal affairs. I want to share a few personal recollections of my time with Chief.

Chief was my baseball coach. He was as good a coach as he was a Chief. He inspired us to be the best we could be. He encouraged us to be good teammates and he helped us develop our strengths and improve our weaknesses. I will always remember the pride my teammates and I felt knowing that Chief believed in us and had confidence in us.

It was the same feeling I had during the 35 years I worked with Chief in our Tribal government and enterprises. He made a point of putting me on various boards and in various positions of responsibility. He sent me to Chahta Enterprise, the Housing Authority, Choctaw Manufacturing, Choctaw Electronics and other Tribal businesses. I worked hard to do the best job I could in each assignment and I faced each new challenge confident I would be able to succeed because I had the peace of mind that came from know-

..........continued next page

Chief Phillip Martin and Mi̱ko Beasley Denson participated in numerous ribbon cutting ceremonies throughout the years. Pictured above is from the grand opening of the Choctaw Hospitality Institute in November 2001.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Bradley Isaac .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 5, AT 12 NOON.

THE CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS IS NOW ONLINE AT WWW.CHOCTAW.ORG

ing Chief had confidence in my abilities.

One of our last conversations was in the office in the Tribal government building that he occupied ever since it was built in 1976. At first it felt a little strange with each of us being on the other side of the desk than we were used to. Then we began talking about the transition. Chief offered to be of assistance to the Tribe anyway he could.

He offered to make available an entire nation of powerful business and government contacts from Washington and the various state capitols to other leaders on reservations across the country. He offered to share anything he had that could be used to help our Tribe.

We also spent a long time talking about our families, what they meant to each of us and what each of us wanted for them. Chief was a man as gracious and inspiring to me in July of 2007 as he had been when took interest in my youth baseball team in the early 60s. I felt again the same confidence I had felt as a young ball player, as a Tribal Council member and as his representative at the various enterprises. I know many of you have experienced and felt that same strength that came from him.

For the vision, love, friendship, lessons, confidence and encouragement, I say "Yakoki Chief." You will be sorely missed.

Oklĩ chipi̱sachi̱nih.

Beasley

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

MI̱KO DENSON ENCOURAGES ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2010 CENSUS

I want to encourage all Tribal members to stand up and be counted in this year's Census. Accurately representing our numbers helps the Tribe in many ways. Below are some of the reasons this is important. The form is short with only ten questions and all information is confidential. If you will be sure to specify "Mississippi Band of Choctaw", instead of just "Choctaw" on Question 9 it would help even more. Yakoki!

For tribes, the 2010 Census is all about power. It's the power that comes only when a statement is backed up by solid numbers from a reliable source. The US Census of Population and Housing (usually just called the "Census"), conducted every ten years, is widely acknowledged as just such a source. The data that comes out of this headcount of the American people is used by innumerable organizations, from the largest public agencies interested in the size of the national population down to the smallest business trying to understand its local marketing opportunities.

............**see CENSUS, pg. 6**

Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

submitted by Norma Bacon, Executive Secretary

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Regular Meeting,
January 12, 2010

Resolution CHO 10-037, confirming an appointment of a Peacemaker Court Judge to the Choctaw Tribal Courts, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-038, renewing an employment contract with Christopher Collins as an Associate Judge in the Choctaw Civil Court, was tabled 13 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-039, confirming a judicial appointment to the Choctaw Tribal Courts, was adopted 11 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-040, confirming an appointment of an Associate Justice to the Choctaw Supreme Court, was adopted 9 in favor, 7 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-041, authorizing to approve the transfer of construction storage warehouse & yard previously used by Choctaw Development Enterprise to the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise, was adopted 15 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-042, authorizing the sale of surplus scrap metals & equipment, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-043(B), approving a business lease in the Conehatta Community, was tabled 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-044(B), approving a site lease for a proposed housing subdivision & development area for Choctaw Housing Authority in the Tucker Community, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-045(B), granting right of way easement to Dixie Electric Power Association in the Bogue Homa Community, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-046, applying for a Professional Development Education Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-047, approving an extension agreement with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & Mr. Sean Gantt, PhD student at the University of New Mexico, for a dissertation research project on cultural & economic development of the Tribe, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-048(B), approving name change & increase in blood degree for previously enrolled Tribal members, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-049(B), approving Tribal enrollments, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-050, approving the refinancing of the loan agreement dated November 4, 2004, as amended, among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians D/B/A Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as a Tribe, the lenders referred to therein, & Commerzbank, AG, New York, & Grand Cayman Branches, as administrative agent, & necessary & negotiated fees & payments related to the refinancing, was adopted 12 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstaining.

CHIEF MARTIN .... continued from page one

and a Tucker resident and U.S. Marine Corps veteran pinned an American flag to a chain link fence, saying it was out of respect for Martin's service to his country and his tribe.

Hundreds were able to listen to the service from outside as loud speakers were placed around the church. Officiating the service was Father Bob Goodyear, S.T.

"How do we say farewell to a friend whom the world recognized as a visionary, a luminary, a star," said Goodyear during his eulogy.

"Phillip was born in this community. He grew up right across the road from this church. A young boy, he grew up. He grew up to change the life of his people and of countless others whom we will never know. His legacy is all around us. Phillip Martin is probably best known for his skills in economic development, but there was much more to the man who was chief," Goodyear said.

Graveside services were held in the church cemetery as the honor guard conducted a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps.

"I, along with every member of our Tribe, am saddened by the passing of Phillip Martin. He was a great man and a visionary leader," said current Tribal Chief, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson.

"I had the privilege of working with Chief for many decades when I was on the Tribal Council and leading various Tribal enterprises. He transformed the economy of our Tribe and with it the fate of our people. He modernized our government. Our Tribe and all of Indian Country would not be where we are today without his leadership, commitment to self-determination and his dedication to economic development. My prayers are with his family," added Denson.

Phillip Martin was born on March 13, 1926, to Willie and Mary Steve Martin and had four brothers and a sister.

Martin attended the Bureau of Indian Affairs elementary school in Tucker. When he was 13 years-old he was sent off to a boarding high school in Cherokee, North Carolina.

At age 19, Martin enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1945 and served in the European Theatre near the end of World War II. He subsequently joined the U.S. Air Force and became a radar specialist and staff sergeant before being discharged in 1955.

He returned to the reservation where he met and married Bonnie Kate Bell. They recently celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary.

He attended Meridian Community College but

..........continued next page

REACTIONS TO THE PASSING OF FORMER TRIBAL CHIEF PHILLIP MARTIN

"Chief Phillip Martin was a visionary leader whose remarkable life was marked by devoted and productive service to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. His attention to economic development while preserving the cultural aspects of Native American life in Mississippi will be long remembered; he was a great Mississippian and will be missed."

-Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour

"I am saddened by the loss of Phillip Martin, whose service to and leadership of the Choctaw tribe resulted in the accomplishment of many good things. It was my privilege to work with Chief Martin as he brought forth new ideas to improve life for the Choctaw people and to expand their cultural, economic and educational opportunities. In the end, he helped not only the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, but all of Mississippi.

"I join those who mourn his passing, and trust that his family and friends will take comfort in knowing that his life was one that made life better for so many others."

-U.S. Senator Thad Cochran (R-Miss.)

"Chief Martin was a leader who inspired his people and strengthened his community and state. During his 48 years of public service, he helped bring his community out of poverty and troubled times and created hope and opportunity for Mississippi Choctaws. Chief Martin will be missed by many, but his legacy of self-determination will continue to flourish in future generations of Choctaws. Gayle and I send our condolences to Chief Martin's family and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Our prayers are with them as they mourn the loss of such a remarkable man."

-U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.)

LEFT, *A student from Tucker Elementary School waves an American Flag in honor of Martin's service to the U.S. military. The Mississippi Highway Patrol led the motorcade procession carrying Chief Martin to the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Burial was in the church cemetery.*

BELOW, *Tucker Elementary students lined Highway 19 South as they paid tribute to Chief Martin.*

Photos courtesy of Tucker Elementary School

Tucker Elementary
Honors the memory of
Chief Martin

shortly thereafter began what would become a life long career of tribal leadership. He was elected to the Tribal Council in 1957 and was elected Chairman in 1959.

Martin served as the democratically elected Tribal Chief for 28 years and served in Tribal government for 48. He brought the Choctaw people out of dire poverty by focusing on economic development and self-determination.

He established over a dozen Tribally-owned enterprises, diversified the Tribe's economy and created over 9,000 jobs. He was responsible for the creation of an 80-acre industrial park, a Tribally-owned construction company, and several public service enterprises. Due to his efforts, the Tribe is now one of Mississippi's largest employers.

Martin built the Tribe's first casino, the Silver Star Hotel and Casino, in 1994 and added a second casino, the Golden Moon, in 2002. The two casinos, Geyser Falls Water Theme Park and Dancing Rabbit Golf Club comprise Pearl River Resort, the largest and most profitable Choctaw enterprise.

The Resort became a catalyst for economic growth and jobs not only on the Reservation but throughout East Central Mississippi.

The list of his other accomplishments and awards is long. He was president of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association and United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), Inc.

In October 2009, Martin, along with the late Tribal Chairman Emmett York, were honored for their involvement with the establishment of USET and the service they provided for the organization. Martin served a term as USET president from 1971-1972.

Natasha Phillips, on behalf of Martin who was unable to attend, spoke of USET's value and importance, particularly in protecting Tribal sovereignty and continued advocacy of Indian Self-Determination.

One of the great USET accomplishments Martin was most impressed about was that "this 40-year old organization became the best Indian regional organization respected by Congress and other federal agencies," according to Phillips.

Martin was the first president of the Board of Regents of Haskell Indian Junior College, now Haskell Indian Nations University. He established the Choctaw Tribal Scholarship Program which allows all Tribal students to attend the colleges and universities of their choice.

His achievements have been honored by dozens of national organizations, among them the Small Business Administration, the United Indian Development Association, the United Indian Youth Organization and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

He held an honorary degree from Millsaps College, is a member of the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame and was named Citizen of the Year by the Philadelphia Neshoba County Chamber of Commerce in 1997.

After his unsuccessful bid for an eighth consecutive term as tribal chief, Martin offered his farewell to the Choctaw Tribal Council in July 2007.

"I think I have faithfully discharged my duties to the tribe for the past 48 years. It's very difficult today, it's like leaving home. I've been here so long that it's difficult, but I knew it would come one day and it has come today.

ABOVE, *Tribal drummer Donti Alex leads the procession from Holy Rosary Catholic Church to the cemetery.*

RIGHT, *Members of the Mississippi Military Funeral Honor Guard conduct the 21-gun salute.*

I'm going to make my exit here and become just plain ole Choctaw. It's been my pleasure to serve the tribe for 48 years.

I've been in the leadership capacity ever since I started working for the tribe. I am proud of that. We made a lot of progress. It has not been easy. I had good support from the Tribal Council.

We have done a lot with our school system. We didn't have a very good school system, our children were not getting the proper education. We've got a good health system, good community development program, economic development program, all of these things that are vital to the tribal government are in place.

I'm sure it will be carried on and make it even better. I would like to see that these things grow and continue to be a benefit of all of us Choctaw."

RIGHT, *A bugler plays Taps.*

Martin would later tell his life story in "Chief: The Autobiography of Phillip Martin, Longtime Tribal Leader, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians." The book was published in 2009 by Quail Ridge Press.

Martin was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Mary Steve Martin; grandsons, James Nicholas Shumake and Kevin Jermaine Shumake; brothers Raymond Martin, Edmund Martin, Harry Martin, and Anthony Martin; and a sister, Annie Mae Tubby.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie K. Martin of Choctaw; daughters, Deborah Lewis and Patricia Gibson, both of Choctaw; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and their families and relatives.

CHOCTAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Temporary change in hours of operation at CHC

The Choctaw Health Center Outpatient Department is announcing a “temporary” change in hours of patient registration sign-up effective Monday, Feb. 22, 2010. The new hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

This is changed from the previous allowed time of 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. To compensate for this change in hours, we will also begin seeing patients earlier than usual, if our providers are not required to be in a meeting. You will be paged earlier than the customary clinic start time of 9:00 a.m. Monday-Thursday, or 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

This temporary change is in order to allow our providers to begin electronic entry of your visit and for our facility to become compliant with CMS requirements and to avoid possible penalties imposed by not using electronic entry.

Our processes may be slow to start with, but with continued practice, we guarantee that we will be back up to speed and will return to our regular schedule on March 29, 2010.

Emergency services and other clinics will not be impacted by this change and will follow their normal daily schedules.

Freeny Basket Day scheduled for April 10

Freeny Basket Day will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2010. This has been an on-going activity for the past 12 years.

Craftsmen, artisans, basket weavers, etc., will be displaying their crafts to the public at Bryan’s Grocery in Carthage, Miss. (located 3 miles east of Highway 35 on Highway 488, south of Carthage).

Rose Bryan, owner, is hosting a whole day of activities including food, crafts, story-telling, & clothing resale for those interested.

Artisans & buyers from all across the state will be there for the event. **There is no charge for vendors - just a “good time.”**

For additional information on the event, call Rose Bryan at 601-267-9013, or Jesse Ben at 601-504-8192/0167.

CENSUS .... continued from page three

Tribes and tribal advocates are active users of Census data. They need the numbers to develop an overall profile of the American Indian and Alaska Native population and to plan services for Native people at the community level. The size of the American Indian and Alaska Native population is certain to increase when the results of the 2010 Census are known. The question is by how much. The answer depends on getting an accurate and complete count of all American Indian1 and Alaska Native people.

THE CENSUS IS ABOUT POLITICAL POWER

Provision for a once-a-decade count of the American people is written into the US Constitution. It’s required in order to calculate the number of seats which each state gets in the House of Representatives - a process known as apportionment.

THE CENSUS IS ABOUT ECONOMIC POWER

Starting or expanding a reservation business or luring new investment to tribal land takes numbers - numbers on the workforce available for the enterprise and numbers that describe the markets for the products or services the business produces. Many times these numbers are provided by Census data.

THE CENSUS IS ABOUT FUNDRAISING POWER

The standard application for many federal programs involves a profile of reservation residents. The ability to describe the characteristics of the American Indian and Alaska Native population can make the difference between winning or losing a grant if need is a scoring factor in a competition for the funds. Several major Indian programs distribute their funds to tribes and Alaska Native groups using formulas that contain Census data.

The biggest is the Indian Housing Block Grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Population size and the condition of the housing stock figure prominently in that funding formula. The Indian Reservation Roads program in the Bureau of Indian Affairs is another. Census population data is an important factor in the funding formula for this program as well.

The two Native American workforce development programs administered by the US Department of Labor under the Workforce Investment Act, the Section 166 Comprehensive Services program and the Supplemental Youth Services program use only Census numbers in the formulas for the distribution of those funds.

These three sets of federal programs alone provide over $1 billion to tribes and Alaska Native groups annually. Census numbers equal money for all those grantees.

THE CENSUS IS ABOUT ADVOCACY POWER

A tribe or Native organization making its case for a place in the decision-making circles of public agencies and private organizations needs to back up that case with numbers. This is true whether it’s a matter of influencing federal appropriations or building ties to a local United Way.

THE CENSUS IS ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POWER

Decisions on the location of reservation facilities - from child care centers to an assisted living complex - are generally better ones when backed up with solid numbers on how many people live where, who they are, and what their needs may be.

Dividing limited services among the geographically scattered communities on the larger reservations is easier if the planners can draw on data for tribal subdivisions, places, or tribal census tracts. Numbers for all these areas are available from the Census and often not from any other source.

- From the NCAI Policy Research Center

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE & STICKBALL STICKS SALE

Saturday, March 27, 2010
Dogwoods & River Oaks Subdivisions
Pearl River Community
7:00 am-Until
For more info, contact Barry Ben at 601-416-4621

AGT named recipient of NASA awards

Applied Geo Technologies (AGT) was recently named recipients of two prestigious awards by NASA.

On Feb. 2, AGT announced they were named a recipient of a John C. Stennis Space Center Contractor Excellence Award.

AGT, who first began work at Stennis Space Center in 2004, was selected for excellence in its work related to the Center's laboratory services, including becoming the first resident agency at Stennis Space Center to receive the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program "Star" status for safety implementations.

"We are pleased to be recognized for our efforts to provide the highest quality services to our NASA customer," said Mike Miller, Interim President & CEO at AGT. "This honor is validation that our philosophy of always do the right thing and putting the customer first simply works. But we won't rest on our laurels; this honor also means we will work harder to find even more ways to improve so we can continue to earn the trust of those we serve."

AGT developed a Quality Built In approach to work performed at the Stennis labs, from process control to management oversight, as an attempt to reduce the potential of quality and/or performance problems at all levels. This approach has resulted in reduced human error, high scores for technical performance and timeliness, zero cost overruns, and an excellent safety record.

AGT announced on Feb. 11 they were also named a recipient of the George M. Low Award, NASA's premier quality and performance honor, in the small business service category.

Recognition through the Contractor Excellence Awards automatically qualified AGT for consideration to receive the award, NASA's highest honor for a space contractor.

"We are humbled to receive this recognition from NASA for the business improvements we have made to enhance our commitment to our customer's goals. NASA's mission is AGT's mission, and we will continue to strive to better what we do and how we serve our customer and our country in achieving the missions ahead," said Miller.

The George M. Low Award recognizes large and small businesses that demonstrate excellence and outstanding technical and managerial achievements in quality and performance on NASA-related contracts or subcontracts.

The award honors Low's career and achievements in space science, aeronautics, technology and education. As part of the U.S. space program, Low provided management and direction for the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and advanced manned missions programs.

AGT is a diversified supplier of products and services to commercial, aerospace and defense customers. AGT has been certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as a Tribally-owned 8(a), HUBZone, Small Disadvantaged Business and is wholly-owned by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Visit www.appliedgeotech.com or contact info@appliedgeotech.com to learn more about AGT.

Anderson appointed to MS-JJAC

Tia Anderson

The Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (msjjac.org) is a governor-appointed committee created to advise the State government and State officials on issues related to juvenile justice. MS-JJAC is created under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Obama Administration has stated a preference to increase tribal involvement. Simultaneously, the Mississippi committee needed a new youth member... and there was no tribal member on the committee.

Mi̱ko Beasley Denson's Development Office (the Planning Office) worked with Tribal Court Services and Choctaw Teen Court to find an appropriate candidate that would be interested in juvenile justice policy, excited about participating, and willing to actively participate on a committee dominated by adults.

Tia Anderson was recommended by Tribal Court Services, approved by Mi̱ko Denson, and appointed by Governor Barbour. Ms. Anderson is very excited about her appointment. She is currently studying Administration of Justice at Mississippi College.

She attended her first meeting on January 7, 2010, as a new and official member of MS-JJAC.

Tubby represents Tribal program at conference

Kevin Tubby, Job Coach with the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program, attended the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) annual training conference in Norman, Okla. He represented the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program by walking in the grand entry of programs and by carrying the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians flag.

By attending the four-day annual training conference, Tubby was able to learn new techniques and best practices to bring back to his day-to-day work with Tribal members who have physical or mental conditions that impact their employment.

If you are a Tribal member who has a physical or mental condition and that condition is significantly impacting your employment, you may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. For more information, contact Billy Smith at 601-650-7343.

CANAR, Inc.
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
01/03/200

Pictured above is Kevin Tubby as he represented the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program during the grand entry of the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) annual training conference in Norman, Okla.

Frequently asked questions about taxes, SSA Disability Benefit Programs

from the Work Incentive Planning and Assistance National Training Center, March 2009

QUESTION: I have been getting services from my local Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) project - can my CWIC help me with tax issues related to my disability benefits?

Your CWIC can offer you some very general information about certain tax issues related to SSA disability benefits, but the assistance provided will be very limited. CWICs are not qualified tax professionals and are not trained to assist with tax issues - even those related to SSA disability benefits. Your CWIC will probably refer you to either the IRS or a local tax professional if you have questions requiring a response beyond what is contained in this document.

QUESTION: Are my disability benefits taxable?

Well, that depends on which benefits you get and how much your total income is. If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you will owe no Federal or State taxes on this benefit. If you have other forms of income in addition to your SSI (such as wages) you may owe taxes on that income.

If you receive a title II disability benefit (SSDI, CDB or DWB), then you may have to pay taxes on your benefits, depending on how much your total income is. SSA reports that about one-third of their current beneficiaries do pay taxes on their benefits. Here are the situations in which taxes may be due:

- If you file a federal tax return as an "individual" and your income is more than $25,000, you have to pay taxes.
- If you file a joint return, you may have to pay taxes if you and your spouse have a combined income that is more than $32,000.
- If you are married and file a separate return, you will probably pay taxes on your benefits.

Beneficiaries who are unsure about whether or not they have to pay taxes should contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or seek the services of a qualified tax professional.

QUESTION: I am getting a Federal income tax refund this year. Do I need to report this to SSA?

No, you do not need to report this no matter whether you are on SSI or a title II disability benefit.

Federal and/or State income tax refunds are specifically disregarded as a form of income by the SSI program. This is because SSI counts your gross income when it is received so your SSI check has already been adjusted without regard to any taxes withheld.

However, if you retain your income tax refund and your countable resources exceed the limit ($2,000 for an individual or $3,000 for a couple) you could become ineligible for SSI and Medicaid.

(NOTE: Income tax refunds are not income for SSI purposes even if the income taxes were excluded from countable income as Blind Work Expenses.)

In the title II program, SSA is only interested in earned income - money you receive in exchange for work performed. Income tax returns would not be considered earned income. Since the title II program is a form of insurance which is not means-tested in any way, resources are never considered. Putting your refund in the bank would have no affect on your benefits.

QUESTION: I will be getting an Earned Income Tax Credit payment this year - is that something I need to report to SSA?

The earned income tax credit (EITC) is a special tax credit that reduces the Federal tax liability of certain low income working taxpayers. This tax credit sometimes results in a payment to the taxpayer, either as an advance from an employer or as a refund from IRS. For more detailed information about the EITC go to the IRS website at: http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96466,00.html.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is not counted as income for either the SSI program or the title II disability benefits and does not need to be reported to SSA. In addition, for the SSI program, any unspent Federal tax refund or payment made by an employer related to an EITC that is received on or after 3/2/04 is excluded from resources for the 9 calendar months following the month the refund or payment is received. For more information, refer to POMS SI 01130.675 Tax Advances and Refunds Related to Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits.

(NOTE: These same rules apply to the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The CTC is a special refundable Federal tax credit that is available to certain low income taxpayers with earned income. They must be parents, step-parents, grandparents or foster parents with a dependent child. This child tax credit may provide a refund to individuals even if they do not owe any tax. The CTC may result in a tax refund payment to the taxpayer from IRS beginning with tax year 2001. There is no advance payment with the CTC.

QUESTION: Is it possible for the IRS to take some of my disability benefit check if I owe money for delinquent taxes?

Yes, this is possible - but only with title II disability benefits. The SSI program does not permit garnishment, attachment or levies against payments for any reason since the assumption is that persons on SSI have very little income or resources. Effective 7/1/89, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (P.L. 100-647) specifically prohibits IRS levies against SSI payments.

In the title II program, the IRS may take a portion of your monthly benefit payment to recover delinquent taxes. IRC Section 6331 states that individuals and businesses with delinquent tax liabilities may be subject to a continuous 15% levy against funds owed them by the federal government (including SSA benefits) beginning in July 2000. To do this, the IRS has to file something called a "Notice of Levy" with the SSA. A Notice of Levy is continuous until the IRS tells SSA to stop levying. In processing levies, SSA is merely acting to assist IRS in its duty to collect delinquent taxes. Except for seeing that the processing requirements are met, SSA has neither the authority nor obligation to question the correctness of an IRS levy.

If a levy is received for an individual who is receiving benefits on behalf of someone else as a representative payee, it will be returned to the IRS. SSA can only levy an individual's own benefits.

A taxpayer whose title II disability payments are subject to levy may contact the IRS to resolve the issue by paying the tax bill, entering into an installment agreement or proposing an offer in compromise. For more information about SSA's role in processing IRS levies, refer to POMS GN 02410.100 - Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Levy.

QUESTION: Can I have taxes withheld from my Social Security Disability Benefits?

Yes, this is possible. Public Law No.103-465 amends the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to allow individuals to request that monies be withheld from certain Federal payments to satisfy their Federal income tax liability. An amendment to Section 207 of the Act allows this withholding from title II benefits. SSA refers to this process as "Voluntary Tax Withholding" or VTW. All title II beneficiaries (adults as well as children) are eligible for VTW. However, only the

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beneficiary or his/her representative payee can request VTW. Voluntary Tax Withholding does NOT apply to SSI payments and there is no way to have State income taxes withheld from any SSA benefit.

Beneficiaries (or their representative payees) need to complete and sign IRS form W-4V (Voluntary Withholding Request) for a VTW request to be valid. This includes a request to stop and as well as start VTW. The withholding rates set by IRS are 7%, 10%, 15%, and 25%. Only these percentages can be used. No other percentages or flat dollar amounts are acceptable. Beneficiaries can start or stop VTW at any time. For more information on VTW processes, refer to POMS GN 02410.015 - Voluntary Tax Withholding (VTW).

QUESTION: Are there special tax deductions that people with disabilities can claim?

Yes, the IRS rules contain myriad deductions and exemptions related to disability and these would apply equally to SSI recipients and title II disability beneficiaries. There are far too many special rules for people with disabilities to describe in this document, but a helpful overview may be found in IRS Publication 907 - Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities. This pamphlet can be found online at: http://www.irs.gov/pub/irspdf/p907.pdf.

In addition to these IRS rules, many States offer additional income tax deductions and some city and county governments offer discounts on property taxes or special taxes such as fees charged for fishing or hunting licenses. Beneficiaries are encouraged to search online for State and local deductions related to disability, or to seek the assistance from a qualified tax professional.

Contributing Authors & Editors:
Jim Huston, CPA (Venture Mentors, LLC) & Lucy Miller

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Brought to you by the Choctaw WIPA Project. If you have questions about your SSA disability benefits and work, please contact 601-650-7332 to see if you are eligible for free advisement.

Teachers renew certification

Jane Massey & Peggy Webb

The Choctaw Tribal School System congratulates Jane Massey & Peggy Webb for renewing their National Board Certification for 10 additional years.

Massey renewed her National Board Certification in the field of Middle Generalist in Elementary Education. She has been a CAAP teacher with the Tribal Schools for six years at Tucker & Conehatta Schools. She just recently became the Media Specialist/Librarian at Conehatta Elementary.

Webb renewed her National Board Certification in the field of Career & Technical Education/Early Adolescence through Young Adult. She has been a technology teacher with the Tribal Schools for eight years.

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession. A voluntary process established by NBPTS, certification is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that is typically completed over a year & measures what accomplished teachers should know & be able to do. This process requires teachers to demonstrate how their activities, both inside & outside the classroom, improve student achievement.

Tribe participates in *Fish Out of Water* TV show taping

The ways and traditions of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will soon be spotlighted in an upcoming episode of *Fish Out of Water*, a weekly, half-hour outdoor, documentary series that airs on Canadian Television.

Members of the Choctaw Cultural Preservation Program assisted with the show's production crew on Jan. 16-18, 2010, as they recorded exhibitions of traditional Choctaw cooking, chanting, dancing, & stickball making in locations around the Pearl River Community.

LEFT, *Show host Don Kelly, far right, learns how to make banaha from CPP's Trudy Jimmie, left, & Tribal elder Lucy Morris, center, of the Bogue Chitto Community.* **RIGHT**, *Kelly gets ready to chop down a tree in the woods with Casey Bigpond, right.*

Currently in it's third season, the show - airing on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) in Canada and produced by Native-owned InterINDigital Productions - features host Don Kelly (Ojibway) as he journeys back to traditional native lands and through a series of misadventures, pushes his limits in order to re-connect with his roots and spiritual values.

"I'm what one elder called a 'concrete Indian.' I thought, 'cause I'm so solid with a strong foundation?' He said, 'no, cause your feet have touched nothing but concrete,'" said Kelly with a laugh. "That's the idea of the show, to get me out there to learn different ways of the people we are working with and it's a lot of fun."

Kelly, of Ottawa, Canada, works as an executive for a national Aboriginal organization and also performs as a stand-up comedian. By having Kelly outside his comfort zone, the audience gets to be vicariously inspired and enriched through his experiences, determination, sense of humor, and often poignant moments as he explores the rich diversity of Native peoples.

"We all know humor is such a big part of who we are. The way we learn as aboriginal people, a lot of times, is we didn't sit our kids down at a blackboard and give them a three hour lesson and take them through it, you get in there and do it. That's how you learn and part of that

........see TV SHOW, pg. 10

NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

On Jan. 29, a literacy class was provided to Tribal employees to learn the basics of reading & writing the Choctaw language.

The Choctaw Preservation Programs (CPP), under the direction of Roseanna Thompson, launched into the new year with endeavors to promote, preserve, embrace, & enhance the rich culture of the Mississippi Choctaws. During the month of January & leading into February, CPP staffers have been busying themselves with research, presentations, workshops, & other activities.

Pictured above are participants of the beading workshop held at the ICI Training Room.

WORKSHOPS HELD AT ICI

At the newly opened Institute of Chahta Immi (Choctaw ways) facilities, CPP employees held cultural workshops that included the "Ipat Ikhana" Choctaw Literacy class for Tribal employees.

The Jan. 29 Literacy class provided Tribal employees opportunity to learn the basics of reading & writing the Choctaw language. Priscilla Williams conducted the literacy class at the ICI Training Room.

On Jan. 12 & 19, 2010, the Choctaw Cultural Preservation Program hosted beading workshops at the Institute of Chahta Immi Educational Facilities. CPP staff members, Thallis Lewis & Trudy Jimmie demonstrated & provided hands-on instruction on beading medallions.

CPP PAIRS UP WITH CDP FOR TOURISM

As part of an effort to bring about awareness of the Choctaw culture beyond the Reservation, the CPP has teamed with Neshoba County/Philadelphia Community Development Partnership (CDP). The alliance has led to opportunities for the Cultural program to represent the Tribe at various functions.

Upon invitation, CPP employees Jay Wesley & Eddie Johnson presented an overview of the Cultural Preservation Program to CDP Board members during their Jan. 20 meeting.

On Jan. 28, 2010, employees of the CDP, CPP, & the MBCI Public Information office traveled to Tupelo,

..........continued next page

ABOVE, *Pictured from left are Lisa Howell, CDP; Fred Willis, MBCI Public Information; Kaye Rowell, CDP; Leigh Allen White, CPD; Jay Wesley, & Eddie Johnson, CPP.*

RIGHT, *Jay Wesley, far right, along with Eddie Johnson presented an overview of the CPP to CDP board members during a Jan. 20 meeting.*

TV SHOW .... continued from page nine

learning means you're going to make mistakes. Rather then get yelled at, people laugh, you laugh and you learn. I think the show captures how we learn as aboriginal people," said Kelly.

The fun part, according to Kelly, is meeting new people, visiting new places and participating in new activities. The only draw back, with a limited schedule and budget, is that they can't experience everything a certain group or location offers.

"I just wish I had a day or two just to hang out, relax, and see the community, but we don't get to do that. It's one of those places that I just think I got to come back here someday. It's nice to meet people so that if you do come back, you've already got some friends that you can talk to and stay with, I hope," said Kelly with a laugh.

Fish Out of Water won Best Documentary Series at the 2009 Alberta Film and Television Awards, also known as the Rosie Awards. It was also nominated for Best Original Musical Score Non Fiction.

In 2008, the show earned a nomination for Best General/Human Interest Series at the 23rd Annual Gemini Awards. They were also nominated for a Gemini (similar to the U.S. Emmy Award) under the category Best General/Human Interest series for season one.

They are currently in their third season with APTN.

Tribal elder Lucy Morris, left, instructs Fish Out of Water host Don Kelly how to make banaha as Phyllis McMillan looks on. Fish Out of Water is televised on Canadian television.

Miss., for the 2010 Festivals & Events Coordinator's workshop.

WESLEY & YORK ATTEND ANA TRAINING

Jay Wesley & Twyla York attended the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) sponsored Post-Award Training for Grantees held in Tulsa, Okla., Jan. 5-6, 2010. The training consisted of information on how to effectively administer, manage, track, & report the ANA funded Ishtatahli Project.

CPP STAFF PLAY A ROLE IN TELEVISION PRODUCTION

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were recently chosen by the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) to be featured in an episode of the show, "Fish Out of Water," that airs on Canadian television.

On Jan. 16-18, 2010, the show's host, Don Kelly, & the production crew were on location recording traditional Choctaw cooking, chanting, dancing, & stickball making.

Representing the Tribe were Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis, Lucy Morris, Casey Bigpond, Phyllis McMillan, Trudy Jimmie, & the Chahta Alla Dancers - Wesley Martin, Jerithan Jim, Simon Isaac, Joe Isaac, Shawn Lewis, Johnathan Cotton, Elishia Thompson, Taylor Allen, Brianna Windham, Sybranda Bell, & Mahli Bell.

TOM GOLDMAN COLLECTION REDISCOVERED

Recently Sean Gantt, Research & Media Consultant for the CPP, traveled to Meridian, Miss., to investigate the Tom Goldman Collection. During his life, Tom Goldman was an attorney in Meridian & more importantly he was a long time friend to the Tribe.

Over the years, Goldman was involved in many different projects here with the tribe, such as the Choctaw Heritage Council. Goldman was a vocational archaeologist & historian who did a lot of research on Choctaw history.

The Tom Goldman Collection is housed at the Lauderdale County Department of Archives & History in Meridian & contains research materials, unpublished papers, drafts of book chapters, & many other resources for researchers interested in studying Choctaw history.

The archive is free & open to the public. For more information about the facility, visit http://www.kithandkinofthesouth.org, or call (601) 482-9752.

Researchers interested in seeing a catalog of Choctaw resources held in the collection should contact the CPP.

Croft, 95, treasures memories of Standing Pine school

Mi̱ko Denson with former Standing Pine school teacher & principal Lena Croft.

In life, one is blessed to attain certain milestones. Mrs. Lena Pearl Croft of Walnut Grove, Miss., is certainly one of those blessed as she just celebrated her 95th birthday on Jan. 31, 2010.

Croft, a spry nonagenarian, is a virtual treasure trove of memories which she is more than happy to share with others. One of her favorite experiences was serving as a teacher and principal at Standing Pine School.

"I just loved everything about it. I worked in the public school before I went to Standing Pine and I truly enjoyed working there. I worked with the girls in the home economics program and I thought everything just went well," said Croft.

Growing up in the Freeny Community, a hop, skip and jump from Walnut Grove and Standing Pine, Croft acknowledged the close proximity of the communities made no one strangers, counting many Choctaws as good friends, and made her tenure at Standing Pine a pleasurable experience.

Croft attended Holmes Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi. Beginning her time in the Bureau of Indian Affairs school system in 1945, Croft remembers certain events that stood out dur-

...see MEMORIES, pg. 12

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Pearl River Early Head Start
601-389-2899
Red Water
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Standing Pine
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Tucker
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*Immediate enrollment available

Winners of 2010 Choctaw Tribal Schools District Science, Engineering Fair released

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held their annual District Science & Engineering Fairs, Feb. 11 & 16, 2010, at Red Water Elementary School. Two hundred projects were entered representing Choctaw Central Middle School, Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Standing Pine, Pearl River, Tucker, & Red Water Elementary Schools.

First-third place winners will advance to the 2010 Region V Science & Engineering Fair at Mississippi State University March 11-12, 2010.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools extend a special "thank you" to the following professionals for giving of their time & talents to participate as judges: Anna Denson, Christina Wallace, Natasha Phillips, Elray King, Anne DeWeese, Iva Denson, David Clark, Allen Peoples, Mitzi Reed, Karla Keats, Pat Crimm, Jimmy Tangle, & Jim McAdory.

Students who placed in their respective classes & categories are listed below.

GRADE 1: Chemistry - 1st Jocelyn Wesley, 2nd Nosikah Melendez, 3rd Jaylen Bell; Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st Trevell Vivians; Medicine & Health - 1st Charlita Gibson; Physics - 1st Cameron Shoemake, 2nd Taleik Ben, 3rd Melaney Thames.

GRADE 2: Chemistry - 1st Sara Littlevoice, 2nd Karl Butler, 3rd Iverson Allen; Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st Memorie Henry, 2nd Christiana Amos, 3rd Malahta Henry; Physics - 1st Triston Gibson.

GRADE 3: Behavioral & Social Sciences - 1st Haylee Thomas; Biochemistry - 1st Taelor Sockey; Chemistry - 1st Aspen Wesley, 2nd Katherine Monk, 3rd Sheyann Bell, Honorable Mention Shawn Isaac; Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st Rayden Sockey, 2nd Alexander Ben, 3rd Kari Maddison Nickey, Honorable Mention Jakob Waiter; Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st Keyunte Fuller; Medicine & Health - 1st Myric Anderson, 2nd Malayiah Willis, 3rd Tatiana Willis; Physics - 1st Arrow Scott, 2nd Tyrese Solomon, 3rd Krisney Berry, Honorable Mention Sydni Tangle; Zoology - 1st Winona Tubby.

Best of Fair (Class I, Grades 1-3) - Charlita Gibson.

GRADE 4: Botany - 1st Sammie Wilson; Chemistry - 1st Katelyn Shoemake, 2nd Skylar Comans, 3rd Jaeden Doka, Honorable Mention Caleb Williamson; Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st Asa Keats, 2nd Jayasri Mitch, 3rd Ethan King, Honorable Mention Aysia Willis; Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st Jacob Billy, 2nd Brison Dixon; Medicine & Health - 1st Matthew Allen, 2nd Hannah Anderson, 3rd Lauren Ben; Physics - 1st Trushaun Berry, 2nd Kelsy Billie, 3rd Justina Dixon, Honorable Mention Catina Townsend.

GRADE 5: Biochemistry - 1st Breanna Billie; Botany - 1st Leighanna Thomas, 2nd Xavier Jimmie; Chemistry - 1st Keyla Mingo, 2nd Allison Meely, 3rd Candace Jefferson, Honorable Mention Mercedes Jefferson; Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st Milton Willis, 2nd Erica Dixon, 3rd Hannah Lewis, Honorable Mention Daiton Henry; Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st Damian Jimmie, 2nd Ashton

..........continued next page

Choctaw Tribal Schools District Science Fair Class I winners.

Choctaw Tribal Schools District Science Fair Class II winners.

MEMORIES .... continued from page eleven

ing her 20-year tenure.

She remembers taking a group of Choctaw students to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, not sure of the reception the young group would attract. Other than the basic curiosity of the children's race, Croft's anxiety was relieved by the friendliness of the store owners and others met during the trip.

She was also thrilled to see the expressions of awe on the student's faces at the abundance and beauty of the coast.

"We went into a grocery store and the children were astonished at the amount of food on display, especially when compared to our little stores in our area," Croft said.

Although Croft had other activities planned, it was one area the kids were really interested in.

"It was the Gulf waters. The sight of it gave each one a memory to remember," said Croft.

There were other trips, like to the Mississippi State Fair, that conjured pleasant memories which brought a smile to her face. But for Croft, it was the education of the children during her time at Standing Pine which brought her the most happiness.

She has seen many of her former students make their own milestones in their lives, most notably, the current leader of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson.

"Boy, it has been a joy to see the improvement the Tribal school has made. Y'all have a real heritage," added Croft.

Today, Croft stays active by walking daily and enjoying the company of her husband since April 2, 1965, W.C. Croft, and taking the time to visit the memories her long life has brought her.

Choctaw Tribal Schools District Science Fair Class III winners.

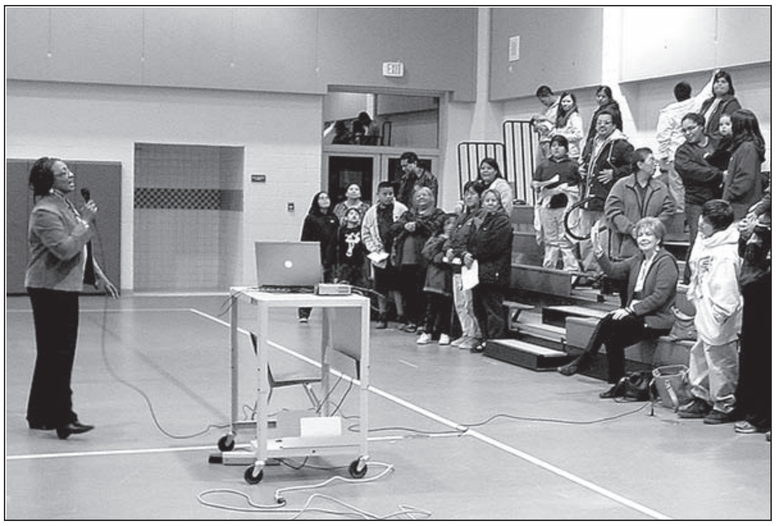
Johnson, 3rd Keenan Mingo, Honorable Mention Javison Wilson; Medicine & Health - 1st Megan Sockey, 2nd Joshua Jordan; Physics - 1st Ichukash Solomon, 2nd Jessalyn Williams, 3rd Sylius Thomas, Honorable Mention Angelia Morales; Zoology - 1st Raina King, 2nd Deshayna Jefferson.

GRADE 6: Behavioral & Social Sciences - 1st Jody Blankenship; Botany - 1st Kassie Cox, 2nd Katie Mingo; Chemistry - 1st Kara Edwards, 2nd Sagel Jimmie, 3rd Malaina Grasshopper, Honorable Mention Laraya McMillan; Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st Janeisa Steve, 2nd Alexis King, 3rd Shaylon Farmer, Honorable Mention Michael Willis; Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st Autumn McMillan, 2nd Kyree Bell, 3rd Kaleigh Allen; Medicine & Health - 1st Forrest Billy, 2nd Kenji Brown, 3rd Randale York; Microbiology - 1st Peyton Bell; Physics - 1st Robert York, 2nd Jason McMillan, 3rd Hananiah Tubby, Honorable Mention Andreana Morales.

Best of Fair (Class II, Grades 4-6) - Sammie Wilson.

Class III, Grades 7-8: Behavioral & Social Sciences - 1st Stephanie Shoemake, 2nd Bridgette Anderson, 3rd Daysianara Lewis, Honorable Mention Eliza York; Botany - 1st Brandy Willis, 2nd Tiffani Riggin, 3rd Alex Billy; Chemistry - 1st Derrick Mingo, 2nd Cheyenne Bufflomeat, 3rd Emily Shoemake, Honorable Mention Dexton Nickey; Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st Christian Deon, 2nd Trinity Tubby, 3rd Tia Jimmie, Honorable Mention Selena John; Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st Dori Mingo, 2nd Richanna Sockey, 3rd Brittany Thompson, Honorable Mention Ramsey Reed; Medicine & Health - 1st Jada Sockey, 2nd Ashrhonda Robinson, 3rd Kirstin Josh, Honorable Mention Peyton Williams; Microbiology - 1st Nikkole Isaac; Physics - 1st Devon Mingo, 2nd Renaysia Polk, 3rd Justine Billy, Honorable Mention Ozzie Willis; Zoology - 1st Shane Bell, 2nd Alma Frazier, 3rd Kobe York, Honorable Mention Kerigan Wesley.

Best of Fair (Class III, Grades 7-8) - Jada Sockey.



Speaks at BCES Title I parent meeting

On Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, Dr. Shirley Nichols (Assistant Superintendent of Leake County Schools) spoke with parents at our Title I Parent Meeting at Bogue Chitto Elementary School. She led an interactive discussion with our parents on the Importance of Parent Involvement in the School. After the meeting, everyone enjoyed a meal from Kentucky Fried Chicken. We want to encourage more parents to participate in the parental involvement activities at our school. The parenting information that you gain will last a lifetime.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS UPCOMING EVENTS

CTS Parent Symposium
Saturday, March 27, 2010
Silver Star Convention Center
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

2010 SPRING FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SCHOOL	DATE	TIME
Bogue Chitto	Thursday, April 15	5:30
Conehatta	Thursday, April 22	5:30
Pearl River	Thursday, April 15	5:30
Red Water	Friday, April 9	5:30
Standing Pine	Friday, April 16	5:30
Tucker	Thursday, April 1	5:30

CCHS Graduation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Star Convention Center. Guest speaker will be Billy Mills.

Day Tutoring at BCES

The day tutors at Bogue Chitto Elementary School serve approximately 50 students each semester. These students receive additional help in the classroom & also are pulled out for individual help. Students work on skills & objectives that help to improve their MCT-2 scores. It also helps the students to achieve other goals in education required of our students at BCES. Janette French serves as the reading/language tutor & Sandra Holdiness serves as the math tutor. Students are rewarded for their attendance & achievements at the end of each semester's work. In some cases, students are taught on a one-on-one basis. Mr. W.F. Bell provides additional resources for the tutors & awards for the students at the end of each semester.

Pictured above are third graders participating in the tutoring program, seated from left, Kelby Thomas & Kenyatta Willis; standing, Shawn Issac & Isiaha Dixon.

RWES local science fair winners

RIGHT, *Samantha Wilson, fourth grader, was the Overall Winner & received Best of Fair for her project titled, "Which Liquid Makes Plants Grow Faster?"*

RIGHT, *1st place winners in each category, front from left, are Rayden Sockey, Megan Sockey, Iverson Allen, Myric Anderson, Aaleyiah Willis, Sheyann Bell, Alana Billy, Neshoba Reed, Catina Townsend, Jayshun Thomas, Camryn Vivians; back row, Shawn Willis, Kassie Cox, Nakeya Willis, Selena John, Kristin Josh, Jody Blankenship, Briana Wesley, Destinee Jones, Stacey Tubby, Kaleigh Allen, & Richanna Sockey.*

Best of Fair winners were, front from left, Rayden Sockey (3rd grade), Iverson Allen (2nd grade); back row, Samantha Wilson (4th grade), Megan Sockey (5th grade), Kassie Cox (6th grade), Kristin Josh (8th grade), & Richanna Sockey (7th grade).

TOP LEFT, *2nd place winners in each category, front from left, are Peyton Willis, Jessalyn Williams, Isiah Dixon, Eric Dixon, Malayiah Willis; back row, Ramsey Reed, Kordell Wishork, Michael Willis, & Sydney Billy.*

BOTTOM LEFT, *3rd place winners in each category, from left, are Daelin Cotton, Tiara Cotton, Alexis King, & Chamaley Nickey.*

Tucker hosts Pancakes for Parents event

Tucker Elementary School recently hosted a morning with Pancakes for Parents. The event, organized by Tucker Counselor Julia Cole & Parent Center Director Dianne Johnston, was overwhelmingly successful.

"We had 63 percent of our students represented with parents, guardians, or grandparents," said Cole. "It is invaluable for students to have their parents show an interest in the education of their children. And at Tucker School, the parents never fail to express this sincere interest."

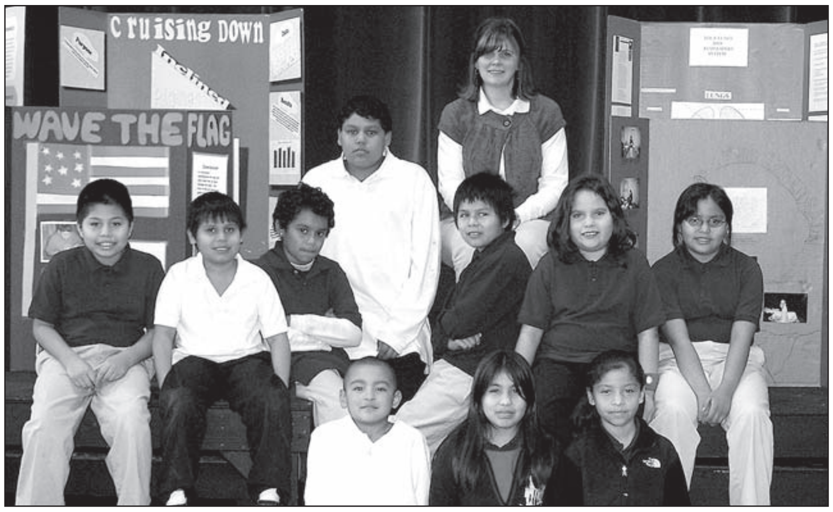
"Ms. Allen's homeroom had the highest percentage of parents with 80 percent of their students represented. It is no coincidence that Sandra Allen & Lewanna Otter's class also has 80 percent of their students on the Honor Roll," added Cole.

The Title I program was opened with a welcome from Principal Brooke Sibley. Parents heard speakers from the Choctaw Dental Services, the Big Brother/Big Sister Program, & the 2010 Census. Title Tutor Denise Johnson made group photos of families as the breakfast adjourned & parents headed out to their daily responsibilities.

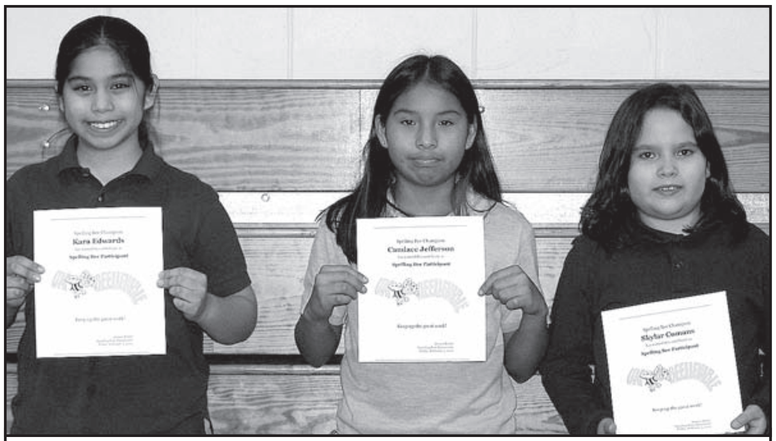
A very special thanks goes to the Cafeteria Staff at Tucker School for cooking a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage on a stick, grits, coffee, milk, & juice.

RIGHT, *Enjoying breakfast are Melissa Farmer & children - Nicholas, Alyssa, Zachary, & Gabriella.*
BELOW, *Large crowd!*

SPES local science fair winners



Standing Pine Elementary held its Local Science Fair February 3, 2010. All participants will advance to the District Science Fair. Pictured, front row from left, are Nosikah Melendez, Haylee Thomas, Sydni Tangle; middle row, Arrow Scott, Tyrese Solomon, Ichukash Solomon, Yopalakiyo Solomon, Randall York, Skylar Comans, Jayasri Mitch; back row, science fair coordinator Meredith Sanders.



SPES Spelling Bee winners

Pictured above are Standing Pine Elementary's local Spelling Bee winners, from left, Kara Edwards (6th grade), Candace Jefferson (5th grade) & Skylar Comans (4th grade).

CCMS local science fair winners

Participants of the 2010 Choctaw Central Middle School Local Science Fair.

Choctaw Central Middle School is very proud of all the students that participated in the 2010 local science fair.

Students placing overall were Eliza York (first), Maya Hickman (second) & Daysianara Lewis (third).

The following students placing in their respective categories are listed below.

Botany

Tiffani Riggin (first), Alex Billy (second) & Brandy Willis (third).

Chemistry

Dexton Nickey (first), Thurdis Tubby (second) & Cheyenne Buffalomeat (third).

Earth, Space & Environmental Science

Tia Jimmie (first), Trinity Tubby (second) & Christain Deon (third).

Engineering, Computers, Math

Brittany Thompson (first), Dori Mingo (second) & Hunter Jones (third).

Medicine & Health

Jada Sockey (first), Peyton Williams (second) & Star Mitch (third).

Physics

Renaysia Polk (first), Ozzie Willis (second) & Justine Billy (third).

Zoology

Kerigan Wesley (first) & Kobe York (second).

Microbiology

Nikkole Isaac (first).

CCMS local science fair first place winners.

CCMS local science fair second place winners.

CCMS local science fair third place winners.

CCMS wins Tribal Schools basketball tourney titles

Choctaw Central Middle School swept this year's Choctaw Tribal Schools 7th, 8th grade girls & boys basketball tournament championships on Jan. 28.

The Lady Warriors dominated the Conehatta Elementary Lady Choctaws 55-15 in the girls finals. In the boys finals, the Warriors defeated the Red Water Elementary Braves 52-43.

This year's finals were played in front of a capacity crowd at the new Red Water Elementary School gymnasium. Other schools participating in the tournament included Bogue Chitto Elementary & Tucker Elementary.

Choctaw Central Lady Warriors 55, Conehatta Lady Choctaws 15

The rivalry continued as the top two girls basketball programs within the Choctaw Tribal Schools - Choctaw Central Middle School & Conehatta Elementary - met in their third consecutive championship contest.

Just as in the previous two meetings, the Lady Warriors would prevail with a 55-15 drubbing of the Lady Choctaws of Conehatta.

Choctaw Central led throughout as they jumped out to a 7-0 lead before Conehatta's Mardiza Sardina scored the lone basket for the Lady Choctaws in the quarter. All-Tournament selection Anna Willis scored five of her game high 9 points in the first to give Choctaw Central a 12-2 lead.

Continuing the pressure, Choctaw Central held a 12-7 advantage in the second to take a 24-9 lead at halftime. Kandace Lasiloo scored three of her seven points in the quarter for the Lady Warriors.

"My girls came out very focused, very energetic. They showed a lot of enthusiasm throughout the game," said Lady Warriors head coach Michelle Tangle.

Choctaw Central kept rolling in the third quarter for a 15-6 advantage. Renaysia Polk scored four of her six points in the quarter & game MVP Breanna Isom scored three of her seven points for a 39-15 lead.

Choctaw Central stifled the Lady Choctaws with a dominating defense as Conehatta was held to no points in the final quarter. LaShayla McMillan scored seven for the Lady Warriors as All Tournament selection Shameka Farmer added three of her game high 9 points for the 55-15 win.

Choctaw Central was 2-of-7 from the free throws; Conehatta 1-of-8.

Scoring for Choctaw Central were Akisha Bell & Shaniesha Willis with four points each & Delanea Anderson with two.

"Conehatta came out & they played probably as tough as we did. I do hand it to Conehatta, they gave us a battle in the beginning," said Tangle. "We had a good season. We accomplished what we had been talking about all year long & I'm just proud that we were able to win it."

Conehatta was led in team scoring by All Tournament selection Shonika Billy & Emily Shoemake with four points each. Also scoring were Sardina with three, Jonica Thomas & Sharisha Wilson with two points each.

Also named to the All-Tournament Team were Sahrisa Jefferson of Red Water & Bernie Dixon of Tucker.

Choctaw Central Warriors 52, Red Water Braves 43

In last year's finals, the Choctaw Central Warriors were denied a bid to win their fourth consecutive title. This year, the Warriors got back on the title track with a 52-43 victory over the homestanding Red Water Braves.

"Red Water came out to play basketball tonight. They played very well. We struggled for a half but we managed to get things together & come out with a win here in the end," said Warriors head coach Brent Farmer.

Although playing with only five players on the squad, the Braves took the challenge of the Warriors in a contest which saw three ties and eight lead changes.

Ramsey Reed scored eight of his team high 24 points in the first quarter as the Braves took a 12-9 lead.

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Community Relations Day winners

Choctaw Central Middle School congratulates the winners from Community Relations Day held on Jan. 11, 2010. All parents that attended were put in a drawing for three special prizes. Winners drawn were, top left, Adrian Wesley, winner of two adult movie passes & Concession Bucks to Canal Place Cinema; top right, Pam McMillan, with daughter Katarina, was the winner of a gift certificate to The Villa; pictured right, winner of The Spa package was Kelly Denson.

Performs for Choctaw Central Dormitory residents

On Monday, January 25, 2010, the Spirit of Life Christian Center Teen Group came to the Choctaw Central Dormitory & performed their skit for the residents. Students saw their rendition of the temptations that teens & adults alike face each & every day. The students enjoyed the skit & message that the group shared with them.

Members of the CCMS Lady Warriors are, front row from left, Shaniesha Willis, Breanna Isom, Shameka Farmer, Kandace Lasiloo, Star Mitch, Jada Sockey, Akisha Bell; back row, Shaunikca Nickey, Delanea Anderson, Anna Willis, Renaysia Polk, & LaShayla McMillan.

Members of the CCMS Warriors are, front row from left, Micheal Buffalomeat, Demarquis Wilson, Aldreca Hickman, manager Hester Dixon, manager Christan Deon; back row, KaShuan Isaac, Sherman Bell, Tyler Lewis, head coach Brent Farmer, Tyrell Anderson, Jayce Henry, Jeremy Chickaway, & Dalen Wheeler.

Choctaw Central's Demarquis Wilson, named game MVP, scored seven of his game high 25 points in the second as John Evans scored five for Red Water as they took a 21-19 lead into the half.

"I told my team we had to play better defense. We had to get up & guard them, just rebound the ball & everything else will take care of itself," said Farmer.

Choctaw Central tied the game 21-21 early in the third with a basket by Kahshun Isaac. He would have five points in the contest. The Warriors took control with a basket by Wilson with over 2 minutes remaining for a 30-28 lead. Team mate & All-Tournament selection Dalen Wheeler chipped in five of his 11 points to close out the third with a 37-32 lead.

Choctaw Central held on to a 15-11 advantage in the final quarter to close out the contest & clinch the title with a 52-43 victory.

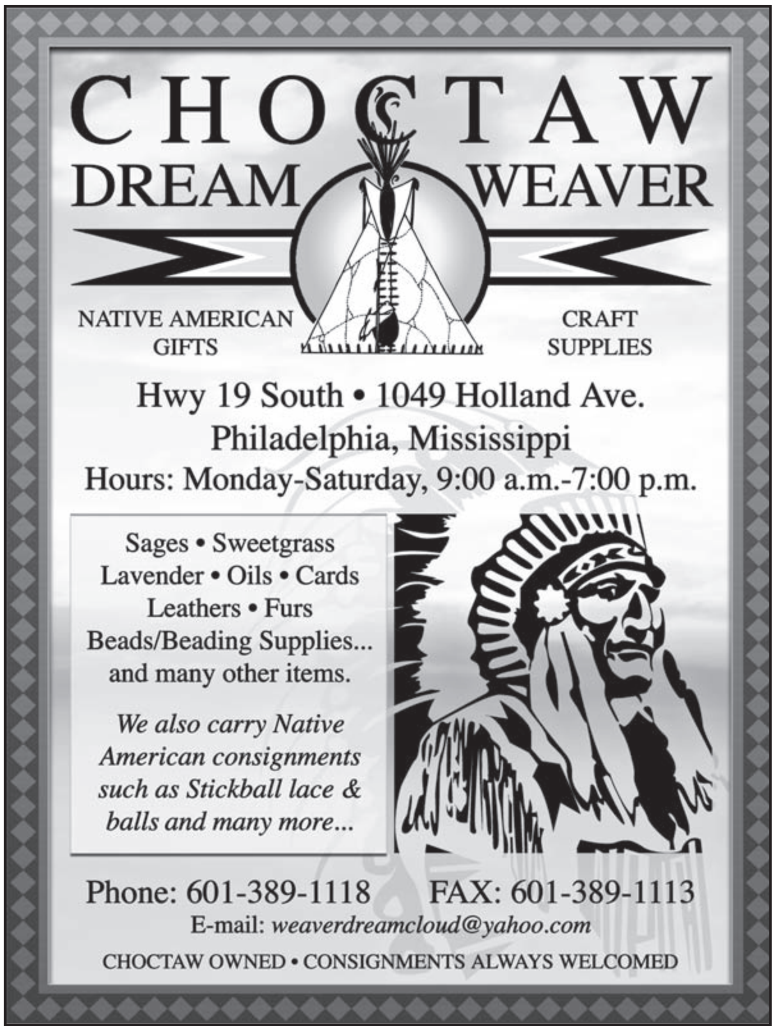
"I'm just proud of my boys. They played real well. They were patient & did what they had to do to take care of business," added Farmer.

Choctaw Central shot 5-of-10 from the free throw as Red Water was 4-of-6.

Aldreca Hickman had six points for the Warriors. Mike Buffalomeat had three & Tyler Lewis two.

All Tournament selection Miles Yazzie scored 14 for the Braves.

Also named to the All Tournament Team were Dyni Morris of Bogue Chitto, Jeremiah Henry of Tucker & Kurtland Williamson of Conehatta.



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ECCC Foundation Board Members

Serving on the Board of Directors of the East Central Community College Foundation, Inc., are (seated from left) Gilbert Thompson (Board vice chairman) of Choctaw, Director of Community Development, Planning & Real Estates, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Patsy Dunigan Clark of Louisville, retired Legal Assistant, Fair & Mayo Attorneys; George Taylor (Board chairman) of Forest, Vice Chairman, Community Bancshares of Mississippi, Inc.; & Dr. Eddie M. Smith of Decatur, ECCC President Emeritus; (standing from left) Stacey Hollingsworth, ECCC Director of Development & Alumni Relations; Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, ECCC President & Ex-Officio Member; Aubry Cox of Carthage, owner of Cox & Associates Insurance Agency; Norman Gillis of Decatur, Accountant, ECCC Business Office; & David Boydstun of Louisville, Vice President & Loan Officer at Renasant Bank. The group recently met on the ECCC campus in Decatur & received a financial report from Merrill Lynch representatives on the College's investments, interest of which is used primarily for funding annual scholarships. Dr. Sutphin also provided an update on College projects & activities.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

Events during the month of January

Jan. 4 - Allen Meely with the Choctaw Fire Department came to the club & talked to the 5-7 year olds about “Fire Safety”. He showed them a video about fire safety & allowed the members to get into his fire patrol car. The members had fun playing with the sirens, lights & talking over the loud speaker. Thank you, Allen! From all the members as they had fun.

Jan. 7-10 - TORCH & Keystone members volunteered their time at the Neshoba County Coliseum to sell programs to earn money for their club. In addition to selling the programs for club money, they got to watch real cowboys in rodeo competition, meet a local newscaster, ride a mechanical bull, & watch rodeo clowns. They had fun while working. Thank you to the members for volunteering your time.

Jan. 15 - Teen Night at the club. We invited Sgt. Williams, USMC recruiter in Meridian, MS, to come talk to the members about a career in the military. This event was a part of our Career Launch program. We are working on introducing other jobs/careers during our teen nights.

Jan, 18 - TORCH/Keystone & FAN club members volunteered their time to come out & help pick up trash on Hugh Mitchell Road. We had 18 volunteers (staff, members, parents, & guardians) to show up for this event. After picking up trash to the end of

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Allen Meely with the Choctaw Fire Department talked to the 5-7 year olds about fire safety. He showed them a video & allowed the members to get into his fire patrol car. The members had fun playing with the sirens, lights & talking over the loud speaker.

Sgt. Williams, United States Marine Corps recruiter in Meridian, talked to the Conehatta Unit members about a career in the military. This event was a part of the Career Launch Program.

Members of the TORCH, Keystone & FAN Clubs volunteered their time to pick up trash on Hugh Mitchell Road as 18 volunteers showed up for this event. After picking up trash, volunteers gathered at the Conehatta Community Pond & grilled hot dogs & ate lunch.

Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center
A SAFE PLACE FOR CHOCTAW CHILDREN

St. Patrick’s Day fun facts

by Leland Lewis

St. Patrick’s Day is an Irish holiday celebrated all around the globe to honor the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. Below you will find a list of fun facts we've assembled about the Irish holiday St. Patrick's Day.

- **St. Patrick’s Day is observed on March 17** because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. It is also a worldwide celebration of Irish culture and history. St. Patrick’s Day is a national holiday in Ireland.
- **In Ireland on St. Patrick’s Day,** people traditionally wear a small bunch of shamrocks on their jackets or caps. Children wear orange, white and green badges, and women and girls wear green ribbons in their hair.
- **The name “leprechaun” has several origins.** It could be from the Irish Gaelic word “*leipreachan*,” which means “a kind of aqueous sprite.” Or, it could be from “*leath bhrogan*,” which means “shoemaker.”
- **According to the Guinness Book of World Records,** the highest number of leaves found on a clover is 14!
- **Legend says that each leaf of the clover means something:** the first is for hope, the second for faith, the third for love and the fourth for luck.
- **Green** is associated with St. Patrick's Day because it is the color of Spring.
- **On St. Patrick's Day,** you can bring yourself good luck by finding a four-leaf clover, and wearing green.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Eleven members were taken to watch "Junie B. Jones' Top Secret Beeswax Journal" play at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian.

the road, we gathered at the Conehatta Community Pond & grilled hot dogs & ate lunch. Thank you Barbara Willis & Edvena John for getting the food ready. Thank you Sylvia Williams for showing your support & helping us pick up trash. Thank you to the members & staff for volunteering also.

Jan. 22 - Eleven members were taken to watch "Junie B. Jones' Top Secret Beeswax Journal" play at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian, MS. Members ages 8-10 were selected based on attendance & second nine weeks honor roll achievement. The play was a musical play so the members enjoyed it very much.

Jan. 29 - Teen Night at the club. We had scheduled the Youth Opportunity Program to come present their Summer Employment program to the members but they could not make it due to bad weather. We have rescheduled with YOP for the March 12th Teen Night. We will start at 6:00 pm with the presentation.

February & March Scheduled events

Feb. 5 - Teen Night at the Pearl River Teen Center - Valentine's Dance.

Feb. 7 - Super Bowl Party at Tucker (ages 10-18) sponsored by the Choctaw Community Planning Coalition.

Feb. 7 - "Steel Magnolias" play at the Philadelphia/ Neshoba Co. Theatre (ages 8-13).

Feb. 15 - Club closed for President's Day.

Feb. 12 - King & Queen of Hearts Pageant for club members at 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 12 - Teen Night at the club. "Dating Violence" presentation by Juannina Mingo.

Feb. 12 - Valentine's Dance (CCPC event) at the Conehatta Boys & Girls Club.

Feb. 26 - Teen Night at the club. Andrew Jones, Youth Court & a case manager (Walnut Grove Correctional Facility).

March 12 - Teen Night at the club. Rescheduled YOP presentation.

March 15-19 - Club open! Hours of operation, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Lunch provided everyday.

March 16 - TORCH & Keystone at the Choctaw Challenge Course, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

March 19 - TORCH & Keystone at the University of Alabama, 8a.m.-4 p.m.

March 26 - Teen Night.

CCHS football standouts Logan, Willis sign with ECCC

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) seniors Kahlon "Jack" Logan and Christopher "Poncho" Willis recently signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at East Central Community College (ECCC) in Decatur as part of the Warriors' football program.

A signing ceremony was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at the CCHS Library in Choctaw as part of National Signing Day. CCHS administrators, coaches, family, and friends gathered to congratulate Logan and Willis on their accomplishments. A reception was held at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Attending the Feb. 3 signing ceremony were, seated from left, stepfather Tony McGee, Kahlon "Jack" Logan, mother Lisa Logan McGee, Christopher "Poncho" Willis, & mother Gloria Willis; back row, CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle, CCHS football assistant coach Edward Routh, head coach Paul Killen, assistant coach Troy Savell, & CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson.

Barry Jim Sr., Director of the Tribe's Recreation Program, served as emcee for the ceremony as he introduced CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle. Dr. Carlyle congratulated the two young men and was proud to see them going on to the next level and continuing their roles as "leaders on and off the field."

CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson also offered his congratulations, but reminded them to take advantage of the "golden opportunity of education."

CCHS head football coach Paul Killen praised the two players and said that during his three years at Choctaw Central both had been good leaders. He encouraged them to continue to work hard.

"Both of these young men will be good leaders for East Central Community College. They work hard, they're going to do whatever the coach asks of them, they're going to do the best of their ability & thats what East Central wants - people that are going to do the best of their ability and do it right," said Killen.

"These two young men will do right cause they got that good upbringing and they know what it takes to work hard."

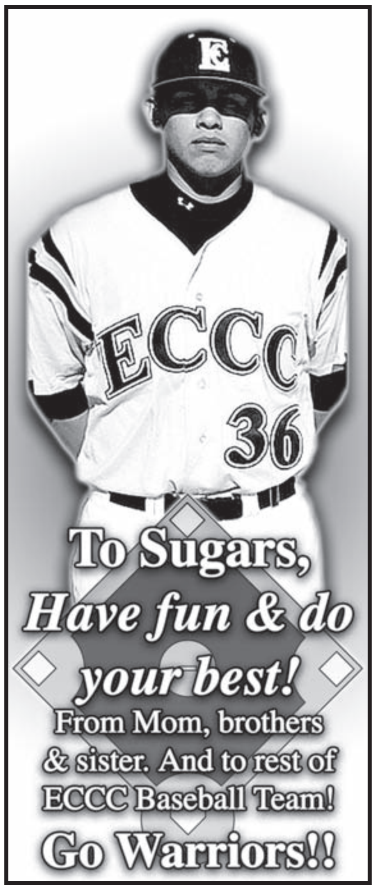
CCHS assistant football coaches Edward Routh and Troy Savell echoed Killen's sentiments as they wished them the best at ECCC. Afterwards, Logan and Willis signed the papers, witnessed by their parents, family and friends.

The two players were then given a chance to

.......see SIGNING, pg. 22

Neshoba County 'Diamond Warriors'

These baseball standouts from Neshoba County are members of the 2010 East Central Community College baseball team. From left are left-handed pitcher Willard Bacon of Choctaw Central High School, right-handed pitcher Joel McKee, left-handed pitcher Austin Buchanan, & outfielder/infielder/right-handed pitcher Donnie Tabb, all of Neshoba Central. Neal Holliman is in his fourth year as Diamond Warrior head coach. Assistants are Michael Avalon & Hunter Vick.



To Sugars, Have fun & do your best!

From Mom, brothers & sister. And to rest of ECCC Baseball Team!

Go Warriors!!

CHOCTAW VETERANS CORNER
NEWS AND UPDATES

submitted by Sammie Wilson, Veterans Coordinator

ATTENTION! TO ALL CHOCTAW VETERANS

The new office for the Veteran Affairs Coordinator (Sammie Wilson) is located in the Tribal Election Office, behind the Vocational Building and the Transit Department.

If any assistance is needed, we will be available. We are starting a filing system in our office for your benefit. If you have your military documents, please give us a copy. If you don't have one, we will help you obtain one.

If you have any questions, please come by or call us at 601-650-2475.

ECCC DIAMOND WARRIORS

Ready to begin the 2010 campaign are the above members of the East Central Community College baseball squad. Team members & their respective high schools include (seated from left), manager Scott Ming, Louisville; outfielder Darmaal Moore, Stone County; infielder/catcher/outfielder Charles Hill, Carthage; right-handed pitcher/infielder Tyler Dalton, Winston Academy; outfielder Jarrod Myers, Jackson St. Andrews; outfielder/second baseman Kevin Harris, Newton; catcher/infielder/outfielder Jeremy May, Newton County; left-handed pitcher Bobby Bryan, Crossett, Ark.; managers Brad Horn of Carthage & Bryce Branning of Meridian; (second row, from left), assistant coaches Hunter Vick & Michael Avalon; right-handed pitcher Barry Meeks, Patrician (Ala.) Academy; third-baseman Vincent Kortbawi, Hale (Ala.) County; left-handed pitcher Willard Bacon, Choctaw Central; outfielder/first baseman Ricardo Velez, Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico; first baseman Richie Long, Carthage; left-handed pitcher Colton Mitchell, Lake; middle infielder Blake Lawson, Biloxi; outfielder/infielder/right-handed pitcher Donnie Tabb, Neshoba Central; student assistant Callop Hampton, Magee; & head coach Neal Holliman; (third row, from left) outfielder/infielder Andre Yates, Grenada; left-handed pitcher/outfielder Ernie Triplett, Louisville; catcher/outfielder/first baseman Quin Stokes & left-handed pitcher/outfielder Pervis Mann, both of Carthage; outfielder Tyler Robinson, Newton County; left-handed pitcher Austin Buchanan, Neshoba Central; outfielder Tyler Neal, Edinburg; right-handed pitcher Cal Cossich, Ocean Springs; right-handed pitcher Joel McKee, Neshoba Central; & right-handed pitcher Allen Johnson, Leake Academy.

2010 ECCC WARRIOR BASEBALL SCHEUDLE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	LOCATION
Tues, Feb. 9	Marion Military	1:00 (9 x 7)	Clark /Gay Baseball Complex
Sat, Feb. 13	Alabama Southern	1:00 (9 x 7)	Clark /Gay Baseball Complex
Tues, Feb. 16	Lurleen B. Wallace	1:00 (9 x 7)	Clark /Gay Baseball Complex
Fri-Sun, Feb. 19-21	ECCC Invitational	T.B.A.	Clark /Gay Baseball Complex
Wed, Feb. 24	Alabama Southern	10:00 (1 x 7)	Monroeville, AL
Wed, Feb. 24	Chipola College	12:30 (1 x 7)	Monroeville, AL
Sat, Feb. 27	LSU - Eunice	1:00 (9 x 7)	Eunice, Lousiana
Sat, March 6	Itawamba	2:00 (9 x 7)	Fulton, MS
Mon, March 8	Kishwaukee C.C.	2:00 (2 x 7)	Clark /Gay Baseball Complex
Wed, March 10	Kaskaskia C.C.	1:00 (2 x 7)	Clark /Gay Baseball Complex
Sat, March 13	Hibbing C.C.	1:00 (9 x 7)	Clark /Gay Baseball Complex
Tues, March 16	**Ms. Gulf Coast**	**2:00 (2 x 7)**	**Perkinston, MS**
Sat, March 20	**Hinds**	**1:00 (2 x 7)**	**Clark /Gay Baseball Complex**
Wed, March 24	Ms. Delta	1:00 (9 x 7)	Moorehead, MS
Sat, March 27	**Southwest**	**1:00 (2 x 7)**	**Clark /Gay Baseball Complex**
Tues, March 30	**Pearl River**	**4:00 (2 x 7)**	**Poplarville, MS**
Fri, April 2	**Copiah Lincoln**	**1:00 (2 x 7)**	**Wesson, MS**
Wed, April 7	**Jones**	**2:00 (2 x 7)**	**Clark /Gay Baseball Complex**
Sat, April 10	**Ms. Gulf Coast**	**1:00 (2 x 7)**	**Clark /Gay Baseball Complex**
Tues, April 13	**Hinds**	**3:00 (2 x 7)**	**Raymond, MS**
Sat, April 17	Ms. Delta	2:00 (9 x 7)	Clark /Gay Baseball Complex
Wed, April 21	**Southwest**	**3:00 (2 x 7)**	**Summit, MS**
Sat, April 24	**Pearl River**	**1:00 (2 x 7)**	**Clark /Gay Baseball Complex**
Tues, April 27	**Copiah Lincoln**	**2:00 (2 x 7)**	**Clark /Gay Baseball Complex**
Sat, May 1	**Jones**	**2:00 (2 x 7)**	**Smith-Wills Stad., Jackson**
Fri-Sat, May 7-8	1st Round Playoffs	**T.B.A.**	
Thurs-Sat, May 13-15	**MACJC Tournament**		**North Division - Highest Seed**
Thurs-Sat, May 20-22	Region 23 Tournament		South Division - Highest Seed
Sat-Friday, May 29-June 4	NJCAA World Series		Enid, Oklahoma

BOLD PRINT - SOUTH DIVISION GAMES

Choctaw Youth Baseball & Fast-Pitch Softball League accepting teams

The Choctaw Youth Recreation Office will begin accepting teams for the 2010 Baseball & Fast-Pitch League. Anyone interested in coaching a youth team can pick up a roster at their local recreation office. Deadline to enter a team will be March 29, 2010, at 4:30 p.m.

The following age divisions are:

Tee-Ball (Boys 6-Under); Tee-Ball (Girls 6-Under). **Can use five 4 year olds, but must be 4 before May 1, 2010;**

Coach Pitch Baseball (Boys 8-Under); Coach Pitch Softball (Girls 8-Under). **Can use five 6 year olds, but must be 6 before May 1, 2010;**

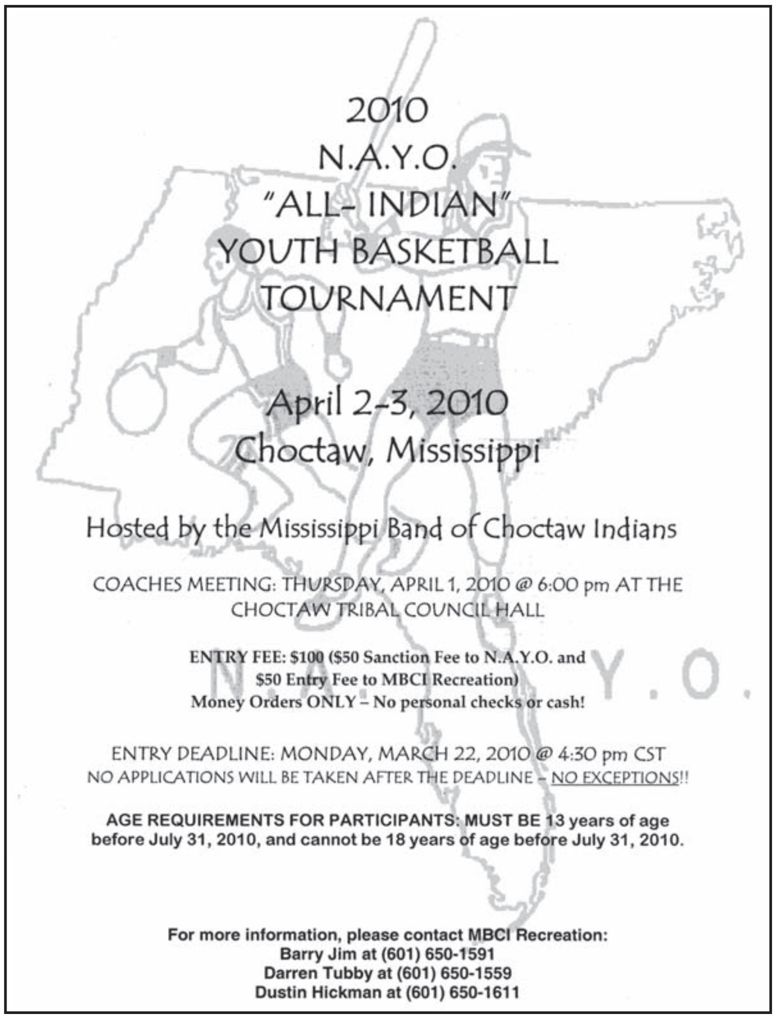
Baseball (Boys 10-Under); Fast Pitch Softball (Girls 10-Under). **Can use five 8 year olds, but must be 8 before May 1, 2010;**

Baseball (Boys 12-Under); Fast Pitch Softball (Girls 12-Under). **Can use 10 year olds, but must be 10 before May 1, 2010;**

Baseball (Boys 13-17); Fast Pitch Softball (Girls 13-17). **Cannot pick up ANY under age.**

- **Cut off date will be May 1, 2010.**
- Teams will be allowed to pick up no more than 5 players from the under age group that are capable of playing in the next age group, except 13-17 age group.
- Must be 21 years of age to coach, 3 coaches, 15 players limit.
- Coaches meeting will be Tuesday, March 30, 2010, in the Tribal Council Hall in Pearl River at 6 p.m.
- League will start April 17, 2010.
- Must have team uniform before 1st game. All players must have same uniforms.

For more information, contact your local recreation office or call Barry Jim, Sr. at 601-650-1591, Darren Tubby at 601-650-1559 or Dustin Hickman at 601-650-1611.



2010
N.A.Y.O.
"ALL- INDIAN"
YOUTH BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT

April 2-3, 2010
Choctaw, Mississippi

Hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

COACHES MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2010 @ 6:00 pm AT THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL

ENTRY FEE: $100 ($50 Sanction Fee to N.A.Y.O. and $50 Entry Fee to MBCI Recreation)
Money Orders ONLY – No personal checks or cash!

ENTRY DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010 @ 4:30 pm CST
NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE TAKEN AFTER THE DEADLINE – NO EXCEPTIONS!!

AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS: MUST BE 13 years of age before July 31, 2010, and cannot be 18 years of age before July 31, 2010.

For more information, please contact MBCI Recreation:
Barry Jim at (601) 650-1591
Darren Tubby at (601) 650-1559
Dustin Hickman at (601) 650-1611

2010 GARDEN SERVICES

The Ag & Rural Dev. help provide assistance to Tribal Members who wish to grow a garden in the Spring. The Dept. provides Disking, Rowing, to those who submit in an application.

Deadline for Garden Application is due on March 5, 2010.

You may pick up an application at the Dept. of Ag & Rural or at your community facility buildings. If you have any questions feel free to contact Samihah M. Jim or Brantley Willis @ 601-656-2070.

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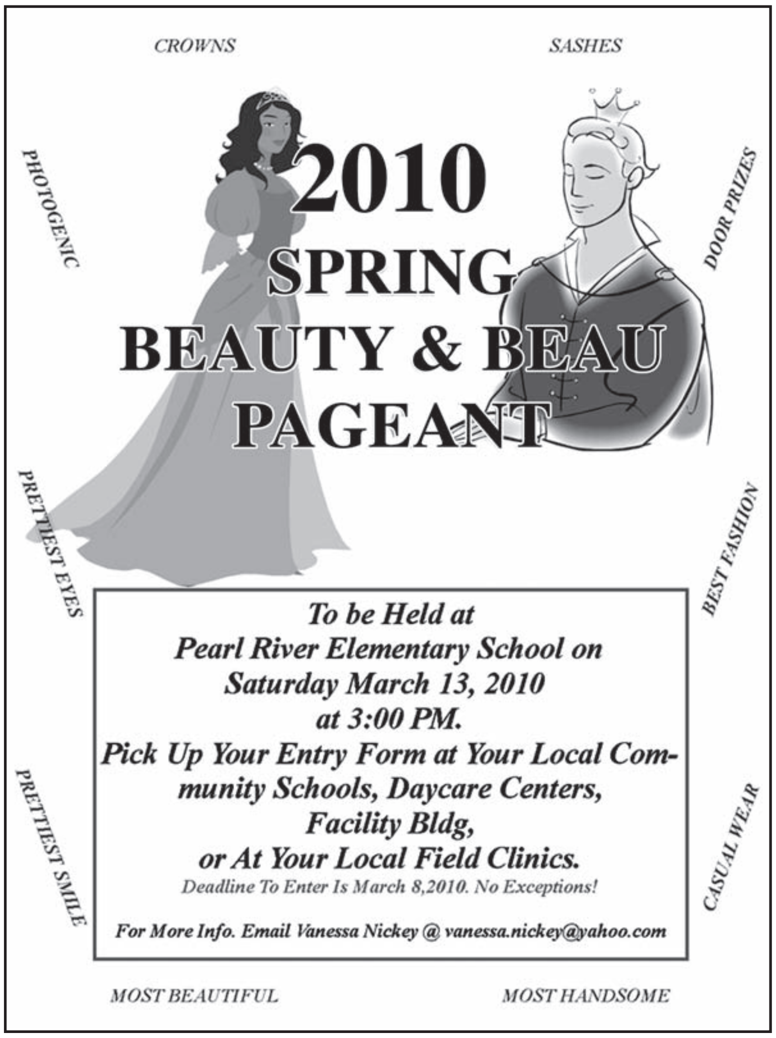

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DOOR PRIZES
PRETTIEST EYES
BEST FASHION
PRETTIEST SMILE
CASUAL WEAR

To be Held at
Pearl River Elementary School on
Saturday March 13, 2010
at 3:00 PM.
Pick Up Your Entry Form at Your Local Community Schools, Daycare Centers, Facility Bldg, or At Your Local Field Clinics.
Deadline To Enter Is March 8,2010. No Exceptions!

For More Info. Email Vanessa Nickey @ vanessa.nickey@yahoo.com

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UP AT THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
CALL DEESANDRA BEN @ 601-650-1612.

SIGNING .... **continued from page nineteen**

address the audience. Logan thanked everyone for coming to the ceremony and for watching him play at the football games.

"The purpose of today was showing people that if you chase your dreams then you'll be able to accomplish whatever you want. My dream was to play football or basketball in the pros and now that I'm going to a community college, it enhances my chances of that," said Logan.

"I'll try to be more athletic than I am now and accomplish things in life and being able to not ever give up in life," Logan added.

In the 2008 season, Logan was named Best Receiver in Region 5-3A. This past season, he was named to the 5-3A First Team.

He is the son of Tony and Lisa Logan McGee of Philadelphia.

Willis also thanked the Choctaw Central fans for their dedication and hoped that they would come out and support Logan and himself at ECCC.

"EC was the only college that looked toward me so I'm ready to go there and show them what I got," said Willis.

In the 2008 season, Willis was named to the Region 5-3A First Team. This past season, as quarterback for the Warriors, Willis was named Region 5-3A Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Year award. He completed 105-of-221 passing attempts for 1,469 yards and 14 touchdowns. Willis also rushed for 793 yards on 105 carries and scored seven touchdowns.

He is the son of Clifton Sr. and Gloria Willis.

In the 2008 season, the CCHS Warriors had an overall record of 5-6 and 1-5 in the division.

'Spud-tacular Potatoes'

by Wayne Porter, Area Horticulture Agent, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Meridian

submitted by Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Agent, MBCI

From its humble beginnings in the Andes Mountains of Peru, the potato has become one of the world's staple foods. Baked, fried, mashed, or stuffed - you name it, & people will eat it. The average American consumes 126 pounds of potatoes each year. Sounds like a lot until you hear about the 745 pounds per capita consumption in Belarus!

The potato is a great vegetable. It is rich in protein, carbohydrates, minerals, & vitamins such as riboflavin, niacin & Vitamin C. And by selecting the right colored varieties you can add antioxidants.

Varieties commonly grown in Mississippi include: 'Red LaSoda', 'LaRouge', 'Superior', 'Atlantic', 'Norchip', 'Kennebec', & 'Yukon Gold.' These all have white flesh except 'Yukon Gold' which is buttery yellow.

If you want to be the star of the potato patch this spring, plant some 'All Red' which has red skin & red flesh. 'All Blue' has blue skin & blue flesh. These plus some of your white-fleshed varieties will make a truly patriotic potato salad for the Fourth of July picnic. These specialty potatoes will have to be ordered.

January through early March is the best time to plant in Mississippi. You can also plant them in the fall if you can get seed stock. Potatoes prefer loose, loamy, well-drained soil. Planting in heavy clay can result in a bumpy looking potato. Plant your potatoes on a raised bed that is 12-15 inches high to prevent damage during heavy spring rains. Most roots & all tubers will develop at the same level & above the level that the original seed potato was planted.

Buy certified disease-free seed potatoes from local farm supply stores or through mail-order catalogs. Do not use potatoes from the grocery store (unless they are organically grown) because they have been treated with a chemical to inhibit sprouting. Cut the seed potatoes into 11/2 to 2 ounce seed pieces with at least one 'eye' on it. Store the cut potatoes in a warm spot for a few days to heal over the cut surface.

Plant your potatoes in a trench 10-12 inches deep with the seed pieces 10-12 inches apart & cover with 3-4 inches of soil. As the plants grow taller, gradually

...see POTATOES, pg. 26

Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program

by Kasey Reynolds Moore, M.S., CRC

The Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program began on October 1, 1987, for the purpose of serving Choctaw Tribal members with disabilities who wanted to become employed. Before this date, no services for this purpose existed on the reservation.

Since the program began, more than 1,000 Tribal members have been placed into competitive employment.

An individual is eligible for services with the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program when an individual:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment that is a substantial impediment to employment, and
2. Can benefit from & requires Vocational Rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain & employment outcome, and
3. Is American Indian & has Tribal membership, and
4. Lives on or near the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Reservation.

If you can answer yes to the four criteria above, or if you would like to be evaluated to identify any impairments you might have, please contact Billy Smith at 601-650-7343.

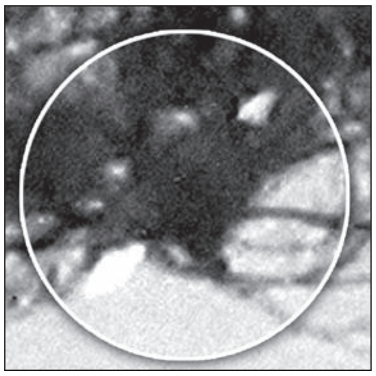
DID YOU KNOW?

There is a Student Earned Income Exclusion for SSI Recipients

A blind or disabled child, who is a student regularly attending school, college, or university, or a course of vocational or technical training, can have limited earnings that are not counted against his or her Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. The maximum amount of the income exclusion applicable to a student in 2010 is $1,640 per month but not more than $6,600.

If you are an SSI recipient or a SSDI beneficiary who is considering work & would like to learn more about this or other SSA Work Incentive, contact Mr. Billy Smith of the Choctaw Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Project in the Manpower Training Center or call 601-650-7343.

Eagle spotted at Lake Pushmataha



It's now official - the "eagle has landed" at Pushmataha Lake on the Choctaw Indian Reservation. A Bald Eagle was sighted & photographed by Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Officer John Berry on Jan. 9, 2010. The eagle had a white tail & white head, indicating a mature Bald Eagle. Even in the photograph, it is easily seen why the eagle was revered by most, if not all Native American Tribes, even Choctaws.

The Bald Eagle is one of bigger raptors in the family of birds, such a kites, hawks, etc. Although the eagle has been taken off the endangered species list, federal laws are still intact so please do not molest or harass the eagle if you happen to come across one. If you see any injured eagles, call your local game & fish officer. Do not attempt to get close to the bird as its talons are sharp & you could severely get injured.

The Choctaw word for eagle is "ossi", as indicated in the Choctaw Dictionary. There maybe another word that some tribal members use & it indicates the eagle's ability to lift more than its weight. The eagle population was disseminated in the 1950's & 60's in Mississippi due to the heavy use of DDT, the chemical that was once prevalent in the cotton industry. Laws were passed to protect the eagles & stricter restriction in the use of the pesticide.

Sightings on our reservation had been reported for approximately a year & a half, but the photograph is the first known photo of an eagle on our reservation. Other sightings in Mississippi have included Kemper Lake, Big Black River, Okatibbee Lake, Tombigbee Channel, & even Neshoba Lake.

For more information, call the Choctaw Tribal Biologist at 601-663-7828.

IN LOVING MEMORY
DR. WILLIAM G. DEMMERT, JR.

Dr. William (Bill) G. Demmert, Jr., Ed. D, (Harvard Graduate School of Education, 1973) died peacefully at his home in Bellingham, Washington, on January 19, 2010. He was born March 9, 1934, in Klawock & raised in the Klawock/Craig area.

His father, Bill Sr., was Tlingit & his mother, Florence, was Sioux. He attended school in the Klawock BIA School, Petersburg, Craig, Sheldon Jackson, Kings Garden, Seattle Pacific University, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, & Harvard University.

Bill's father was a very successful commercial seine boat skipper. Bill, Jr. spent nearly every summer fishing with his dad until Bill Sr. retired.

Bill Demmert, Jr. had two children with his first wife, Mona - Melanie & Philip; & two children with his second wife, Nora - William John & Norita. He has four grandchildren, Leslie, Joshua, Eric, & Stephen; two great grandchildren, Cameron & Damien; a sister, Justna Johns; & brothers, LeRoy & Ted.

Bill Jr. was proud of his Native heritage. He grew up in a subsistence way of life & spent a lot of time researching & learning the early history of both sides of his family. He was a member of the Klawock Alaska Native Brotherhood & served a term as Chairman of the Board of the Klawock Heenya Corporation. He also served on the Sealaska Heritage Institute Board of Trustees.

He taught school in Fairbanks & was Superintendent of Schools in Klawock. From 1982-1986, he served as Dean, School of Education & Liberal Arts Professor of Education at the University of Alaska-Southeast. He was an excellent basketball player, enjoyed golf, tennis, hunting, & especially sport fishing. At the time of his retirement, Dr. William G. Demmert, Jr. served as a professor of education at Western Washington University.

Dr. Demmert is one of the original founders of the National Indian Education Association. He was the first U.S. Deputy Commissioner of Education for the U.S. Office of Indian Education, in the Dept. of Health, Education, & Welfare; served as the Director of Education for the Bureau of Indian Affairs; held the position of Commissioner of Education for the State of Alaska; & served on President Clinton's education transition team.

Dr. Demmert served as a member of the Independent Review Panel, created by the U.S. Congress, to undertake a national assessment of Title I, of the Elementary & Secondary Education Amendments (ESEA), & other federal programs in the U.S. Dept.of Education, 1995-2001.

He was appointed by the U.S. Dept. of Education (along

....**see DEMMERT, pg. 25**

In Memory

Betty Sue Phillips

Funeral services for Betty Sue Phillips, 52, were held Thursday, January 28, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Indian Baptist Church. The Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Phillips passed away Jan. 25 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a lifelong resident of the Bogue Chitto Community. She was a member of the Bogue Chitto Indian Baptist Church & would occasionally attend the Pentecostal Church of God.

She worked at Chahta Enterprise then worked in the Dietary Department of the Choctaw Health Center.

She enjoyed visiting with friends, family & her grandchildren. She also enjoyed playing games with her grandson, Gage Lewis.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clifton & Rene Bell Vaughn; sister, baby girl Vaughn; nephew, Jason Lee Vaughn; great-niece, baby girl Vaughn; & a great-nephew, Myles D'Shawn Vaughn.

She is survived by her daughters, Lagatha Lewis & Casaja Phillips; a son, Aristotle Phillips; three grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; six sisters, Earlene Hickman, Judy Thompson, Rosalie Bell, Lorena Alex, Nancy Vaughn, & Pauline Kinsolving, all of Philadelphia; six brothers, Jimmy Vaughn Sr., Harry Vaughn, Jerry Vaughn, Harley Vaughn, Thomas Vaughn, & Roger Vaughn, all of Philadelphia; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Frank Jim

Funeral services for Frank Jim, 82, were held at 32 Jimmy Cook Road in Sandersville on Monday, February 1, 2010. The Rev. Robert Paul Tubby Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Homa Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jim passed away on Jan. 28 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He worked as a custodian at the Shubuta Head Start.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Benji Jim & Dora Thomas; & a son, Preston Jim.

Survivors include a sister, Bobbie Sue Chapman; & a granddaughter.

Mary Sue Willis

Funeral services for Mary Sue Willis, 68, were held February 1, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Willis passed away Jan. 29 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church & was a Sunday School teacher who loved to sing with her students.

She was a professional seamstress at Garan then Nemanco until 1986. She loved to fish & play softball. She also enjoyed singing & was a leader in a Choctaw social dance group for a few years.

A native of the Bogue Chitto Community, she resided at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Les Joe, Marshall Joe & Thad Joe; an infant; & two grandchildren, Timothy B. Whitham & Anthony Willis.

Survivors include her husband of 50 years, Reginald Willis; a daughter, Rowena Willis; a son, Walter Willis; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister, Winnie Sue Willis of Philadelphia; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Chief Phillip Martin

Funeral services for Chief Phillip Martin, 83, were held Monday, February 8, 2010, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery with military honors. McClain-Hays Funeral Home in Philadelphia was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Martin, of Choctaw, passed away Feb. 4 at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson.

He attended the Bureau of Indian Affairs elementary school in Tucker. He was sent off to a boarding high school in Cherokee, North Carolina when he was 13-years old.

At age 19, Martin enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1945 and served in the European Theatre near the end of World War II. He subsequently joined the U.S. Air Force and

..........continued next page

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105 Choctaw Town Center
Open Monday - Saturday
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

"RENEWING OF THE MIND"

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed (changed) by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." - **Romans 12:2**

Genuine change cannot come when we keep conforming to the world around us. If we think like the world, we will act, talk, and live like the world. Believers are called to be different. In the passage above, we are told to be transformed by renewing our mind. The way we accomplish this is to take the word of God and allow it to transform our thinking. By renewing our mind, we position ourselves to receive God's wisdom to change every area of our lives. Lasting change begins when we surrender our thought life to the word of God. Remember, it's never too late to change!

-Pastor Thomas Ben

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Pastor Thomas Ben

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became a radar specialist and staff sergeant before being discharged in 1955.

He returned to the reservation where he met and married Bonnie Kate Bell. They recently celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary.

He attended Meridian Community College but shortly thereafter began what would become a life long career of tribal leadership. He was elected to the Tribal Council in 1957 and was elected Chairman in 1959.

Martin served as the democratically elected Tribal Chief for 28 years and served in Tribal government for 48. He brought the Choctaw people out of dire poverty by focusing on economic development and self-determination.

He held an honorary degree from Millsaps College, is a member of the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame and was named Citizen of the Year by the Philadelphia Neshoba County Chamber of Commerce in 1997.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie & Mary Steve Martin; grandsons, James Nicholas Shumake & Kevin Jermane Shumake; brothers, Raymond Martin, Edmund Martin, Harry Martin, & Anthony Martin; & a sister, Annie Mae Tubby.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie K. Martin of Choctaw; daughters, Deborah Lewis & Patricia Gibson, both of Choctaw; grandchildren, Winter K. Lewis of Choctaw, Graham Lewis of Choctaw, Megan M. Gibson of Hattiesburg, Brittany A. Gibson of Choctaw & Nigel Wayne Gibson of Choctaw; great-grandchildren, Mahalia S. Gibson of Hattiesburg, Imearia S. Davis of Hattiesburg, Iverson J. Wallace of Choctaw, & Jamearan M. Wallace of Choctaw; & several nieces, nephews & their families.

MINNIE C. BELL

Funeral services for Minnie C. Bell, 83, were held Thursday, February 11, 2010, from the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church. The Rev. Harvey Yoder officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Bell passed away Feb. 8 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was an active member of Sandy Hill Baptist Church. She was a homemaker & made traditional Choctaw dresses, shirts & quilts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George & Azie Cotton; husband, Emmett Bell; sister, Betty C. Wallace; brothers, Vess Cotton & Kenneth Cotton.

Survivors include her sister, Alice Cotton of Philadelphia; nieces, Amanda Cotton, Sandy Cotton, Sheila Cotton, & Ginger McMillan; nephews, Darrell Cotton & Ronald Cotton (also his guardian/foster mother); & a host of great nieces & nephews.

ALEISHA RHEANN ROUTH

Funeral services for Aleisha RheAnn Routh, 19, were held Monday, February 15, 2010, from the St. Theresa Catholic Church in the Pearl River Community. Father David Hamm officiated.

Burial was in the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery in Tucker. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Routh passed away Feb. 10.

She was a recent honors graduate of Neshoba Central High School. She was currently attending East Central Community College in Decatur where she was studying pre-med.

She was preceded in death by her grandmothers, Nellie Hickman Steve & Roberta Tubby Parks; & aunts, Robin Parks & Stephanie Parks.

Survivors include her parents, Edward & Tina Routh; sisters, Kaylee Routh & Candice Parks; uncles, Robert Routh, Samuel Victory & Jaime Parks; aunts, Christina Routh, Tonya Ben, Melissa Parks, & Sherry Tullis; & a host of cousins & friends.

BILLY RAY JOHN

Funeral services for Billy Ray John, 42, were held Wednesday, February 17, 2010, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Pastor Thomas Ben Jr. officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. John, of Conehatta, passed away on Feb. 14.

He was preceded in death by his father, Emmett Tinsley John; & a granddaughter, Tannah M. Johnson.

Survivors include his two daughters, Deaundrea Johnson & Melanie Jim; four sons, Kelsey DeBrent John, Brian Jim, Brandon Jim, & Joshua Jim; three stepchildren, Kristy Clemons, Chantay Clemons & Jessie Williams; mother, Evelyn John; three brothers, DeRoy Wolf, Mark John & Alan John; companion, Diane Clemons; & five grandchildren.

DEMMERT .... continued from page twenty-three

with former Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell) as co-chair of the Indian Nations At Risk Task Force & served as the primary writer for the Indian Nations At Risk Task Force Report, published in Oct. 1991, by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

As part of his university duties, he worked with the RAND Corporation on a review of the research literature on the education of Native America, an analysis of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data targeting Native American students & the Longitudinal Study of Early Childhood education. In addition, he worked with the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory as a partner on a proposed National Study of Indian Education which included a review & assessment of the quantitative research available on the influences of language & cultural programs on the education of Native American students; a feasibility study on whether such a study is possible to carry out; & the design of such a study.

Dr. Demmert's international activity is extensive & includes serving the chairman for the Steering Committee for the Cross-Cultural Education Seminar Series in the Circumpolar North. In this capacity he serves as a co-chair of a coalition of the Ministers of Education in northern nations & helped plan and implement a series of education seminars in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Greenland, Russian Federation, Alaska, Nunavut Territory, Northern Quebec, & the Yukon Territory in Canada. These seminars focus on ways to improve educational opportunities for indigenous students in the far north.

Most recently Dr. Demmert has worked with the Ministry of Education in Greenland as an international advisor & consultant for their school reform effort in elementary & secondary education, as well as in restructuring their university system.

He recently served as a principal investigator, in partnership with Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL), the Center for Research on Education, Diversity, & Excellence (CREDE), the Educational Testing Service (ETS), Kamehameha Schools, Arizona State University & seven school programs in a project designed to develop & test curriculum based measurements (CBMs) as a way of monitoring student progress among Native students in a select number of schools that use the Native language as the language of instruction, & a culturally based education program.

Dr. William G. Demmert will be missed by his family, friends, & all those who knew and worked with him through the years.

(Dr. Demmert had worked with Choctaw over the years. His last visit to Choctaw was in October 2007 as he served as a presenter for the Indigenous Conference, sponsored by

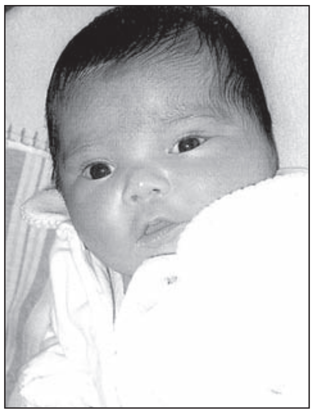
POTATOES .... continued from page twenty-two

fill in the trench with soil around the plant. Some gardeners prefer to cover with straw mulch instead of soil. This makes harvesting easier. Each potato plant will produce 2-4 pounds of potatoes.

Potatoes are a cool-season crop & grow best when the day temperatures range from 60-65 degrees & night temperatures are between 45-55 degrees. Tuber production will stop when the temperatures exceed 85 degrees.

Harvest at the appropriate time for the type of potato you want. 'New' potatoes are harvested in May while baking potatoes are harvested sometime in June. Use a spade or fork to dig up the potatoes. Immediately use any injured potatoes before they rot. Store the good potatoes in a cool (40-50 degree), dark, humid place. Remember the old-fashioned root cellar. Store the potatoes in the dark because light will cause then to turn green & make them inedible.

It is still cold at night but the soil is warm enough to get potatoes growing. Make the effort to grow your own potatoes & be the envy of the neighborhood. If you need more information, contact your local extension office, or search www.msucares.com for Information Sheet 1507, *Commercial Production of Irish Potatoes in Mississippi.*



A new addition to our family, a baby girl... *Rozland Shaurine Billy was born on Dec. 15, 2009, to Shonda Jackson & Roland Billy. She weighed in at 8 lbs., 8 ozs... Also to our lovely grandma, Laurine (Cinch) Jackson, Happy Birthday to you too on Dec. 15! From your grandkids! We love you!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Best of luck to Hope Brennigen Soloman "B-B-K" on her birthday in March. Good luck, from an old friend (Knight Ryder).

A very Belated Happy Birthday to Mr, Warren Comby on Jan. 12, from all of us (Mina, Justin, Steph, & Henry). Hope your birthday turns out good & thank you for all that you've done for me & the kids.

Happy Belated Birthday to Miss Kalen Kalane Willis on Feb. 9, from Steph, Mina & Justin.

Happy Birthday to Maria Wilson on March 3 & to Dicenzo Sam on March 6, from Bigwil.

Happy Belated Birthday to a very special girl, Erica "Eka" Phillips on Jan. 13 & Happy Valentines Day.

Happy Belated Birthday to Alicia Tubby on Feb. 6, from the Tubby Family... Happy Belated Birthday to Geyser Tubby, on Feb. 13 & Happy Valentines Day to you. Just always know that I love you my son, from your mom Geez. Love you!... Happy Birthday to my sister, Sonya Tubby, on March 22, from your family... Happy Birthday to my bro, Fernando Tubby, on March 26, from Geez & Geyz!

Happy 5th Birthday to Dakota Kyle Jimmie on March 10, 2010, from Mom, Dad, Grandma, Papo, & the rest of the Willis Family!

Happy Birthday to our Grandma Susan B. Willis on March 14, 2010. We love you, from Angelica Jade, Cannon Jaze, Tom-Tom, & Yo.

Happy Birthday to Angie Taylor on March 26, from the Martin Family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Tamika Tubby on Feb. 10 & Happy Birthday to Desiree Tubby on Feb. 17, from your family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Isiaha "Big Head" Dixon, from Mom & Grandma. We love you!... Happy Belated Valentine's Day to Ken Wesley. We love you!... Happy Birthday to Curtis R. Bell on the 7th & Happy Birthday to Evelyn Bell on the 8th, from your niece.

A Belated Happy 31st Birthday to Kitisha Farmer in Fla., from your family, Dad, Steph, Justin, & Mina.

To Latasha Willis, Happy Birthday on March 3 & to Kendell Ralane Willis on March 10. Happy Birthday Ladies! from Steph, Justin, Mina, & Henry.

Happy Birthday to the twins, Terry B. & Jerry B. Willis on March 23, from your one & only sister, Mina & Justin.

Happy Belated Valentines Day to our Daddy Keith Allen Willis! We love you & miss you, with love from Keshaun, Alaysia & Asha. We love you! See you soon!

Happy Belated Birthdays to my cousin Leslie D. Tubby who turned 20 on Feb. 2 & to my brother Dole Frazier on Feb. 20, from Mary... Also to Richard Ben, stay out of trouble when you get out. Happy Valentines Day, love from Mary.

Happy Belated Valentines Day to my handsome husband, Mr. Jay Elliott Shoemake. I love & miss you. Love always, your wife Mrs. Lillie Shoemake... Also to my nephew Mr. Kendrick W. Steve. Be good you hear.

Happy 6th Birthday to my "Punkin" "Acharese bebe" Ms. Melody Syrese Jefferson. I love you baby girl. Love from Auntie & Uncle Jay.

Happy Belated Birthday to my nephew Mr. Choctaw Steve down in Tucker. Have a good one "boy" from Okshawanni-Lol!

Happy Belated Birthday & Valentines Day to my good & wonderful husband, Mr. Manuel Van King (Tonchi Bota). I love you & miss you so much. Love, your coolest & greatest best wifey, Shay King (Suga)... Also to Kristy Renee Clemons, Demanuel & Manuel King, "Have a Happy Valentines Day"... Congratulations to Demanuel King on being a father of his newborn baby, from Shay King.

Happy Valentines Day to my Dad & Mom, Amon Lewis & Deborah Bell. I love yall two so much, from your daughter. Thanks for being there, from Shay King... To my brothers, Damon & Marshall Bell & Jonah Cotton. Happy Valentines Day Nerds... Also my nieces & nephews, Averri Cotton, Aumbree Cotton, DeSean Wayne, Alexandria, & RJ Wallace... Happy Valentines Day "Love Birds" Rod & Miranda Wallace...also to my sister Antonia Steve, from Shay King.

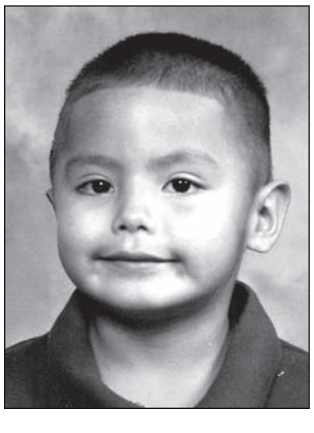
We wish a Happy Birthday to Madison Dixon on Feb. 15, to our uncle "Boyin Jones" Earl Farmer, Sr. on Feb. 15... to Amanda "Buckkiss" Hickman who turned 27 on Feb. 24 & to Mr. Bridgeo Phillips on Feb. 16...also to our ground hog cuz (Shanda Lewis) on Feb. 2. Happy Birthday Ms. Wayne! Don't over do it without us! From Nina, Girl & the boys.

Happy Valentines Day to Demahn Dixon & Elliot Farmer Jr. We love you both & miss yall dearly. From Nina, Girl & the boys.

A Happy 31st Birthday wish to my sister Kitisha Farmer on Feb. 23. My God sis, you're getting old! From your sister Nina, your nephew Hoshi Lakna, Mike Joe & your two rugrats, Brannon & Dejon.

Happy Birthdays to Forrest Muchik Osi who celebrated his 12th Birthday on Jan. 4; Isaiah Derrant celebrated his 11th Birthday on Dec. 29; Brenton Miles celebrated his 9th Birthday on March 4; Roby Scott celebrated his 5th Birthday on Feb. 3; & Roland

........................continued next page



LEFT, *Happy 7th Birthday to our big boi - Kayleb Lee Denson - on March 16. Lots of love from Mommy, Dana, J.R., lil sister Denise, Aaliyah, Mamo, aunties Shosha & Kayla, uncles Jerm & Ced, & your crazy cousins Keshaun (Victor) & Alaysia (Choo-Choo). We love you "Alex"!*

RHODES IS 3!

We wish a Happy 3rd Birthday to our precious baby boy, Mr. Cannon Jaze Rhodes on March 30, 2010. Even though you think you're the "boss," we love you always & thank God we have you in our lives. Hugs & kisses to you, from Mommy, Daddy, Angelica Jade, Tom-Tom, & Yo!

Happy 1st Birthday to Mr. Iccly Cayd Anataya Willis on March 30. A year's gone by, goodness how time has flown by. We can't believe how much you've grown, such a joy to all of us. Our baby is turning one, so HAPPY BIRHTDAY, ICCLY! We love & miss you, from MINA, E, STEPHANIE, HENRY, & JUSTIN.

Happy Belated 28th Birthday to our crazy cuz Aleisha Lewis on Jan. 3. Hope you had fun! From your cousins in Fla.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Zaymian Ty, from Momma, KJ, your Mamos, Papos, Aunties, & Cousins!

KOI & IYLEY TURN 1!

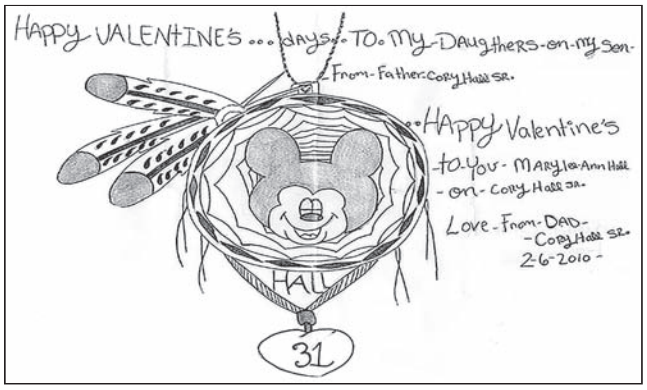
Happy Birthday to our beautiful, bouncing twins on March 2, 2010. It was only yesterday when the nurse said it was "Birthday Time" & moments later, there y'all laid so happy & sweet. We are so proud to be your parents & can't wait for many years to come. Mommy & Daddy love you! Love, Momma, Daddy, Kaedre, Great-Grandmothers, Grandmothers, Grandfathers, Uncles, Aunts, family, & friends.

Happy 3rd Birthday to our beautiful little Miss Almera Raeana Charlie on Jan. 31, 2010. From Mommy, Daddy, Malakai, Bo, Grandma, James, Uncle, & Lucas! Hugs & kisses, we love you! Stay sweet!

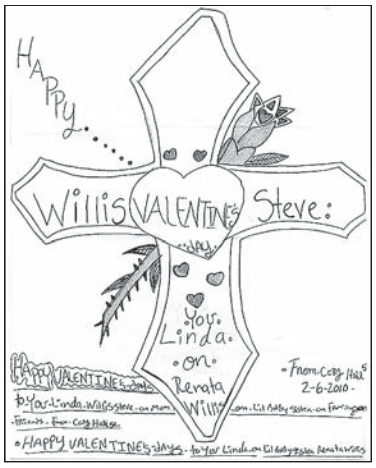
Happy Belated Birthday to our future Indian Princess, Miss Kylee Brooke Willis on Feb. 28, 2010. From the Willis Family! Stay sweet!

We wish a Happy Birthday to our grandpa Henry C. Farmer on Feb. 26, with lots of hugs & kisses from your grandsons in Fla. - Brannon, Kaden & Dejon... Also, Happy Anniversary to our dad Henry & his wife, Stephanie Farmer, on Feb. 26. Hope ya'll have fun! From Nina & Sly, Girl & Mike, & your friends Eric & Barabra Cypress.

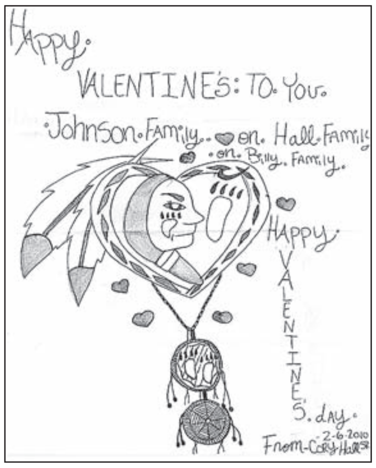
We wish a Belated Happy 31st Birthday on Feb. 23 to Ms. Kitisha Farmer in Fla. Hope you had fun on your special day. Is this what being 31 is all about? Happy Birthday Girl! From Dad, Steph, Justin, & of course Mina.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S ... days. TO. My-Daugthers-on-my Son-
From-Father. Cory Hall SR.
HAPPY Valentine's
to-You- MARY lee-Ann Hall
-on- Cory Hall JR.
Love-From-DAD-
-Cory Hall SR.
2-6-2010-
HALL
31



HAPPY.....
Willis VALENTINE'S Steve:
day.
You.
Linda.
.on.
Renata
Willis
From. Cory Hall S
2-6-2010-
HAPPY VALENTINE'S-days
Friends. From. Cory Hall SR.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S-days. to Your Linda on Lil Baby sister Renata Willis

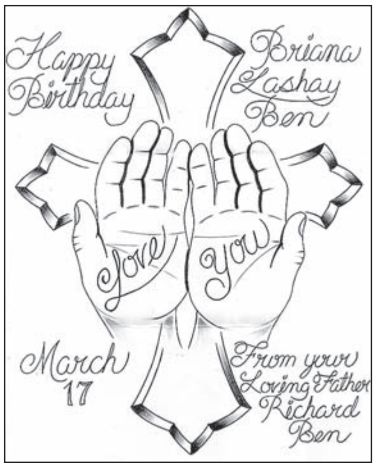


HAPPY.
VALENTINE'S: TO. YOU.
Johnson. Family.. on. Hall. Family
.on. Billy. Family.
HAPPY.
VALENTINE'S. day.
2-6-2010
From-Cory Hall SR

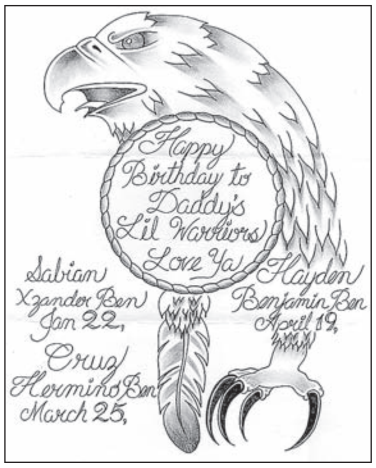
Stanford celebrated his birthday on Feb. 12!

Happy 6th Birthday to Iyana K. Anderson on Feb. 29. With love from Mommy, lil sister Sere, Papo & Mamo Willis, Delia, Hail, JJ, Great-Grandma Nancy Willis, family, & friends.

LEFT, *Happy 15th Birthday to my daughter, Briana LaShay Ben, on St. Patrick's Day! Love, your Mom, Sister Cami, Grandma & Grandpa Morris, your Auntie Rena Jane, & the rest of your family.*



Happy Birthday
Briana Lashay Ben
Love
You
March 17
From your Loving Father Richard Ben



Happy Birthday to Daddy's Lil Warriors Love Ya
Sabian Xzander Ben Jan 22,
Cruz Hermino Ben March 25,
Hayden Benjamin Ben April 19,

"Missing You on Valentines"
for Jaysaun Elliott Steve
7/13/09 - 8/8/09

Handsome, I just want to let you know that I miss you & love you so much. Really wish you were here with me for Valentines. I sure miss your cries & the mean look you were always giving me & your daddy Jay. We both miss you a lot. I sit here, cry & hope that one day God will give you back to me. But there's no way that will ever happen. Theres just one thing I must do to ever see my "Haynesum" again. Walking around & thinking of you brings a smile to my face but realizing that my baby boy is not here to celebrate Valentines Day with me just brings tears to my eyes. But I have something special to bring to your grave my "Haynesum" - I know your spirit is still with me, if not why would I hear your cries when I'm falling asleep? I love you & miss you my Undertaker.

Love, Mommy

Congratulations to Miss Zayna Miyae Hudson, who was crowned Queen of Hearts in her division 0-12 months on Feb. 6, 2010, at the Neshoba County Coliseum. She also won the Casual Wear category. She is the daughter of Cheyonah Dixon & Jonathan Hudson, big brother Kage & big sister Jamiya. Grandparents are Steve & Faith Dixon, Vivian & Micheal Jones & the late Virgil Griffin, Jr. We love you baby girl!

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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MARCH 2010

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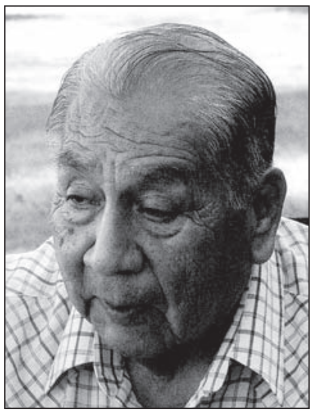
PICTURED LEFT

Happy 4th Birthday to Miss Talayah Kinsolving on March 8. She will celebrate with a High School Musical Party at Gattis Pizza with family & friends. We love you big girl! Love, Mom & Dad.

Happy 9th Birthday & lots of hugs-n-kisses to Miss Kari Maddison Nickey, daughter of Vince & Vanessa Nickey, & lil sister to BIG brother Chace. She will be celebrating her 9th birthday on March 20 (1st day of spring) with her family & enjoying Spring Break. Maddison loves to compete in beauty pageants & has held several local titles. Maddison will be competing against girls from this state for the title of "Miss Pre-Teen Magnolia State" in her age division this July in Vicksburg. We all love you & wish you the best of luck, from Dad, Mom & Chace.

Happy Belated 3rd Birthday to Xiomara Lynn Fireplace on Feb. 27! Proud parents are Brandon & Sylendria Fireplace. Paternal grandparents are Kennedy & Wendy Dale. Maternal grandparents are Billy & Sylvia Johnson.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HUBERT JEFFERSON ON MARCH 3!

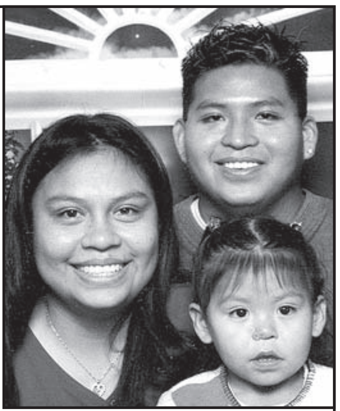
To My Dear Uncle,

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the wisdom you've shared with the family. For the times you are there when we need you.

I always kid you about making me lose an uncle & an aunt by marrying my mom's sister when you were already my uncle (my dad's brother). But I could have had 10 uncles & they would not be half the man you are.

You are the greatest male figure in the world to me. As a matter of fact, you are more than an uncle. When my father died on your birthday in 1976, you took his space. You became the "rock" of the family. We could always depend on you for our needs, no matter what they may have been. My children affectionately call you "afo" or grandpa. We love you & "thank you". Happy 75th Birthday Hubie!

-Sylvia Johnson



One by one, each year flew by since you both said "I Do." Ten years of memories shared by the two of you, from big events & holidays to simple daily pleasures. Some tearful & joyful times along life's way that can't be measured one by one. With each year now gone, but still there yours forever each & every memory of that 10 years together! So Happy 10th Year Wedding Anniversary to Alan & Angelina Martin. From all of your family & friends.

Choctaw Community News

VOL. XL, NO. 4 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 APRIL 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Lady Warriors fall to Ripley 71-51 at state tourney in Jackson

The pursuit for a sixth state basketball title came to an abrupt conclusion for the Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors as they were defeated by the Ripley Lady Tigers 71-51 in the semifinal of the MHSAA Class 3A State Tournament Feb. 27 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

"I wanted us to leave it all on the floor & I don't feel like we did tonight. I don't think we were ever in it mentally,"

see BASKETBALL, pg. 13

RIGHT, *Ripley's Becca Ruckes & Choctaw's Kristen Dixon tip off in front of 2,800 at the "Big House" in Jackson.*

BankPlus
Proudly Supports the Mississippi High School Activities Association
cellularsouth
Wilso
20
LADY 21 WARRIORS
POSS

Partners with Big Brothers Big Sisters of MS

From left, Joel Waters, Executive Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi, and Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at Choctaw Central High School.

Tribe seeks to expand Broadband Internet services

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Information Technology Department is seeking Federal funding to install critical infrastructure and expand Broadband Internet services to all eight Choctaw communities and the surrounding areas.

The Tribe will submit its Federal grant application under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Office.

The Choctaw Reservation lacks adequate high-speed Internet services, and this Broadband project will avail all Tribal residents, businesses, government offices, and facilities located on Tribal lands, as well as those located in surrounding areas off-reservation, of fast, reliable, and reasonably-priced, high-speed Broadband internet capabilities.

The USDA's RUS and the U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) are streamlining the

.....see INTERNET, pg. 6

Ice Cream
Corn

Parading for healthy food choices

Children in the Division of Early Childhood Education program participated in the Healthy Choices for Healthy Bodies Parade on Friday, March 19. In observance of National Nutrition Month, children dressed up as their favorite fruit or healthy food choice. National Nutrition Month® is a nutrition education & information campaign by the American Dietetic Association. The parade started at the Choctaw Social Services parking lot & concluded at the Pearl River Amphitheater where an interactive session focused attention on the importance of making informed food choices & developing sound eating & physical activity habits

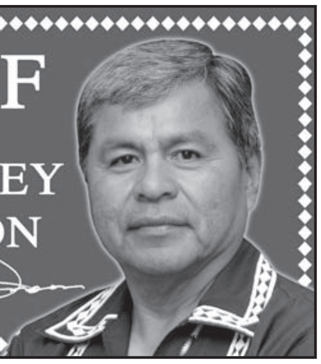
Tribe signs partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi

A partnership to help Choctaw youth reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one mentorships has been initialized on the Choctaw Reservation.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Big

see PARTNERSHIP, pg. 5

FROM THE OFFICE OF MI̱KO BEASLEY DENSON



Beasley Denson

ON EDUCATION

In this globalized economy, and especially in a down turn like this “Great Recession,” a good education is the key to our children’s futures. Without the ability to comprehend what they read, express themselves clearly and without proficiency in science and math, the prospects for success in this increasingly competitive world are not good. That’s why we have to make sure we are providing our children with the opportunity to get a high quality education. Part of my responsibility as Mi̱ko is to make sure this is happening.

The work the employees of our Choctaw Tribal School System (CTSS) do is some of the most important work there is. To be sure the education our tribal schools provide is what it should be, I try to get to a different school every month or so. I visit teachers and students in classrooms, talk to faculty and staff and have lunch in the cafeteria. In February, I visited Pearl River Elementary, Choctaw Central Middle School and Choctaw Central High School.

I was pleased with much of what I saw. Our teachers, many who have been with us a long time, are committed to their jobs and to student achievement. In addition to the basics, they balance modern technology with traditional vocational training. Our special education students are in good hands and the cafeteria staff does a great job of nourishing our young people.

Our graduating seniors this year will be treated to a commencement speech by the great Billy Mills, an Oglala Sioux whose record of achievement in athletics could easily serve as a model and an inspiration for success in academics. No American had ever won the 10,000-meter run in the Olympics until 1964 when Mills beat the odds. He passed the world champion and the world record holder on his way to win the gold.

Like Mills, many Native American students in today’s educational system are facing an uphill battle against long odds. Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school students had the second highest dropout rate of any minority in 2006-2007 at 8 percent. Only 71 percent of Native American and Alaskan Natives have a high school diploma and only 11 percent have a Bachelor of Arts degree.

In 2007-2008, the graduation rate for high schools nationwide was 75 percent. For Bureau of Indian Education schools this number was 54 percent. Our graduation rate was 45 percent.

These are numbers that are improving. The Choctaw Central graduation rate this past year was 55 percent. Continuous improvement is what we are striving for. Like Billy Mill’s triumph in the Tokyo Olympics, I know that we too will continue to beat the odds. The cost of our young people dropping out of high school today is too steep for us to fail.

While our school systems’ technical infrastructure is in good shape, the physical infrastructure, buildings, classrooms, equipment, etc.,

Mi̱ko Denson visits with students in Faye Moore’s Kindergarten class.

Keenan Mingo & Dewain Clemons get some help from Mi̱ko with their assignment.

LEFT, *Mi̱ko Denson, standing, in the CCHS cafeteria with, seated from left, Kameren Hickman, Tavion Bond, Tobiah Ben, Justin Tubby, & Onnahinli Denson.*

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

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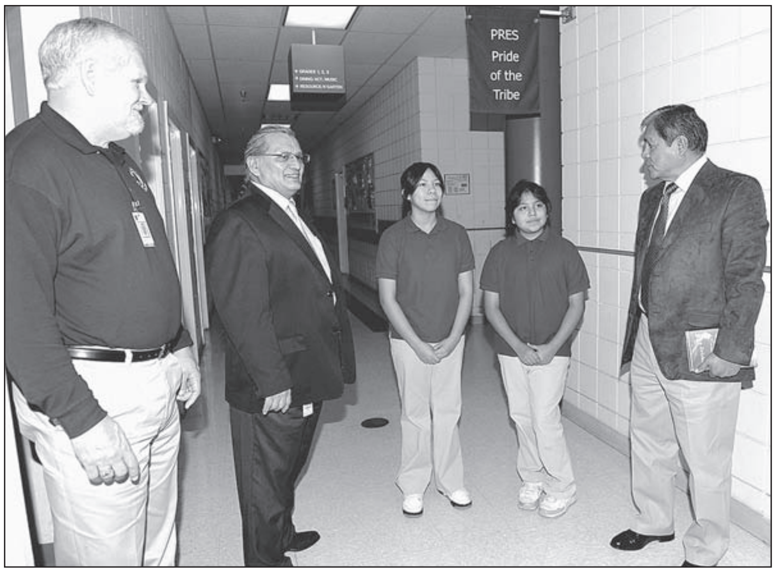
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Bradley Isaac .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2010 ISSUE IS MONDAY, APRIL 5, AT 12 NOON.

Mi̱ko Denson looks in on Rhonda Fulton's Pre-Kindergarten class.



PRES Principal David McCulloch, Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry & Mi̱ko Denson tour Pearl River Elementary School with Hallie Denson & Brianna Isaac.

is in need of improvement. Even in this economy, when revenues are down and additional monies are hard to find, I still think that we have to get our students out of trailers.

It will take a combination of skillful budgeting and creative financing combined with an aggressive pursuit of federal funding to do this but it is one of my top priorities. It is hard for our teachers to manage classes and maintain discipline in the existing structures.

Even though most federal education appropriations under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act are for repair and modernization, I'm convinced that we will be able to find away to make the changes we have to make in order to bring our facilities to the right level.

I recently commissioned a study to determine whether it is feasible to convert the unfinished Wellness Center into a new, state-of-the-art high school and possibly a high school and a middle school.

The Wellness Center has stood empty since 2006. I have asked several architects to review the existing structure and convened the Tribal Council Education Committee, planning staff and Choctaw Central High School Principal and department heads for a discussion of a possible new CCHS campus. Putting that building to good use is long overdue and I can't think of a better purpose than the education of the next generation of Tribal leaders.

If we are successful in creating a new campus, I want to be sure that the teaching and learning of our traditions and cultures is not lost among the new desks and chalk boards. Nationally there has been a decrease in culturally based education. We will be sure to integrate our language, culture and traditions into the curriculum. They are important elements for the advancement of self knowledge and academic achievement.

LEGO PRESENTATION

One of the best things an adult can do is take interest in the education of a child. When older people give of themselves to serve as mentors to our youth, we can be sure that our traditions and history survive. It is extremely important that we as Tribal members, not only the Choctaw Tribal School System faculty and staff, take part in the education of the newer generations.

But sometimes it is the young people who teach us something. This was the case on January 22nd, when the CCMS Lego Robotic Team presented to me. The students on the team were Christian Deon, Simon Isaac, Jada Sockey, Ozzie Willis, Demarquis Wilson, Allandra York, and Malcolm York and they saw something that none of us had been able to see.

The students recognized a dangerous situation for their peers who cross Highway 16 to get to school. They noticed that there were no signs to indicate a school zone or pedestrian crossing and no reason for motorists unfamiliar with the area to slow down and be on the lookout for students crossing.

Thanks to their efforts, flashing lights are being installed to slow traffic down when school is in session. We are working with Mississippi Department of Transportation to make this adjustment to all of our school zones as soon as possible.

I am very proud of these students. I shared their project with our legislative delegation, Representative Gregg Harper and Senators Cochran and Wicker, on my most recent trip to Washington, DC. Each one was as impressed with their initiative as I was. Yakoki as well to Paula Pankratz and Mike Moorehead who guided these students in their efforts.

Beasley Denson

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

Mi̱ko & Lena Denson, center, with Tribal Education Service Officer Dalton Henry, far left, the LEGO Robotics Team & their faculty advisors, Mike Moorehead & Paula Pankratz, far left.

There are no Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries to report in the April issue.

CHOCTAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM FUNDS

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) has been awarded funds by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) to provide free nutritious supplemental food to eligible & certified participants.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Pregnant or postpartum women, infants, & children up to age 5 are eligible. They must meet income guidelines, a residency requirement within the Choctaw Reservation & its surrounding areas, eligible to receive health services at the Choctaw Hospital, & be individually determined to be at “nutrition risk” by a health professional.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants’ income must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below). A proof of income such as check stub must be presented to become certified. A person who participates or has family members who participate in certain other benefits programs, such as Food Stamp Program, Medicaid, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, automatically meets the income eligibility requirement.

Proof of identity such as Tribal ID, work badge or driver’s license is required when applying for WIC Program benefits.

The WIC ID card issued at certification is required to be presented to WIC program staff so that Vouchers & infant food can be issued.

WHAT OTHER SERVICES DOES WIC PROVIDE?

1. Nutrition Education & counseling.
2. Referrals to health & other social services when necessary for specific health protection & health promotion activities.
3. Dietary assessment & evaluation.

The WIC office located at the back of the Choctaw Hospital is open to process application & issue food vouchers, Monday to Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information, please call the WIC office at 389-6337.

(In accordance with Federal Law & U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room, 326-W Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.)

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
(EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010)
185%

Household Size	Annual	Month	Week
1	20,036	1,670	386
2	26,955	2,247	519
3	33,874	2,823	652
4	40,793	3,400	785
5	47,712	3,976	918
6	54,631	4,553	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	1,317
For each additional family member, add	+6,919	+577	+134

Dr. Valley joins CHD staff

The Choctaw Health Department is pleased to announce that a new employee, Dr. Verena Valley, (pictured in background) is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine & has joined our staff as the Emergency Room Medical Director.

Dr. Valley comes to us from Singing River Hospital System in Pascagoula, Miss., where she held the position of Staff Emergency Physician. Please join the Health Center, & community members Brandon Mesteth (left) & his grandmother, Audrey Chitto, welcome Dr. Valley to the staff & the Choctaw community.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC & WIC PARTICIPANTS

AVAILABILITY OF FY 2010 WIC STATE PLAN FOR PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT

MBCI WIC Program will make available for public review & comment their FY 2010 State Plan at the WIC Office, 210 Hospital Circle, Choctaw, MS on Friday, March 23, 2010, from 9:00-4:00 p.m. The general public, WIC participants as well as concerned citizen groups, are invited to comment on the State Plan to enable WIC to better serve its clients. All of the comments can be directed personally to the WIC Director, through telephone, or in writing addressed to: WIC Director, 210 Hospital Circle, Choctaw, MS 39350. Tel. No. (601) 650-1845 or (601) 389-6337.

WIC IS funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service, which provides nutritious food, nutrition education & counseling & health referrals to eligible persons who are at nutritional risk, such as pregnant & breastfeeding woman, infants & children under age 5.

(In accordance with Federal Law & U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room, 326-W Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer.)

CHOCTAW DELEGATION ATTENDS NCAI, MEETS WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

On March 1, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson led a delegation to the Winter Session of the Executive Council of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in Washington, D.C. Secretary-Treasurer Lola Parkerson, Red Water Council member Myrtle Ben, Chief of Staff Barry McMillan, Choctaw Health Department Director Josh Breedlove, Dr. Kennith York, and Attorney General Don Kilgore were in attendance.

The conference focused on many issues of importance to our Tribe and Indian Country, including health care reform, diabetes and childhood obesity in native communities, education, housing and the 2011 federal budget.

Attendees were addressed by eight cabinet Secretaries and Administrators and nine Members of Congress.

The Choctaw delegation met with the leaders from Congress and the Obama Administration separately as well to highlight issues of importance specific to our Tribe.

Mi̱ko Denson met first with Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. The two friends discussed Chairman Inouye's visit to Choctaw last year, including the Senator’s visit to Red Water Elementary School, and Choctaw’s education needs.

Mi̱ko Denson, Parkerson and Ben met with Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, a long time friend of Indian Country who will not run for reelection this year.

They sat down with Representative Tom Cole of Oklahoma, the only Native American Member of Congress and Representative Nick Rahall of West Virginia, the Chairman of the House Committee on Natural

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Resources.

They also spoke with Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Representatives Xavier Becerra and Joe Baca of California, Representative Charlie Melancon of Louisiana and Representative Betty McCollum of Minnesota.

Council members Ben and Parkerson were invited to a dinner in honor of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. The two spoke at length with Speaker Pelosi who was entrusted with the success of President Obama’s top domestic legislative priority, health care reform.

The health care reform bill included language to reauthorize and amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which funds health care for all federally recognized Tribes, has languished in Congress for over ten years.

Secretary-Treasurer Parkerson and Council member Ben reminded the Speaker of this and emphasized the importance and need for quality and accessible health care in Native American communities. Pelosi assured them she was doing all she could to ensure passage of the bill.

On Sunday, March 21, the bill passed the House and was signed by President Obama in the East Room of the White House on March 23.

Most of the major insurance reforms in the bill will take effect in 2014, but as of this fall health plans will no longer be able to deny coverage to children who have pre-existing conditions. People who lack insurance because of illness will have access to a temporary insurance pool starting this summer.

Other provisions include lifting lifetime caps on insurance coverage and a prohibition against health plans dropping people when they get sick. New health plans will have to offer free preventive care starting in September, and young people will be able to be covered by their parents' health plan until age 26.

The Choctaw delegation also met with the members of the Mississippi delegation while they were in Washington. These meetings focused on the specific priorities of the Tribe, especially the need for increased federal funding for Choctaw's education, health care and housing requirements.

Representative Gregg Harper, and Senators Cochran and Wicker, were briefed on the condition of Choctaw's eight Tribally-operated schools. They were brought up to speed on the Tribe's efforts to improve these facilities and the environment in which Choctaw children study, and Mi̱ko and the Council members urged them to do whatever they could to obtain additional federal funding for these efforts.

Dr. Kennith York (far left), Red Water Tribal Council member Myrtle Ben (second from left), Mi̱ko Beasley Denson (second from right), & Secretary-Treasurer Lola Parkerson (far right) visit with Mississippi’s senior Senator, Thad Cochran.

Red Water Tribal Council member Myrtle Ben, left, & Secretary-Treasurer Lola Parkerson, right, pose for a picture after a discussion with the most powerful woman in America, Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.

Mi̱ko Denson (far left), Chief of Staff Barry McMillan (second from right), and Choctaw Health Department Director Josh Breedlove (far right) meet with Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi in Washington D.C.

PARTNERSHIP .... continued from page one

Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) library in Choctaw.

This is only the third partnership in the U.S. between a Native American organization and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Big Brothers Big Sisters - the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the U.S. - has been the leader in one-to-one youth service for more than a century and develops positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people.

Big Brothers Big Sisters serves children, ages 6-18, in communities across the country.

“Our ultimate goal is to provide quality and excellence in education. We have to include communities and families in partnerships to make things happen, like leadership development and character building. We felt this would be an opportunity for us to develop a partnership,” said Tribal Education Service Officer Dalton Henry.

Henry, serving as emcee, told the audience the event is indicative of what the partnership will mean for the Choctaw Tribal School System in the future.

“Today’s event indicates that we are reaching that goal of a being a pre-eminent Tribal school where people will come and look at our school as a model. You students are that model,” said Henry.

Thirty-six CCHS students were introduced as Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors at the ceremony.

Also in attendance were Tribal Member Services Division Director Henderson Williams (who led the invocation), Family and Community Services Department Director Maurice Calistro, MBCI Boys & Girls Club Director Glen Billie, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi Program Specialist Jill Byars.

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INTERNET .... continued from page one

ARRA’s broadband grant and loan programs to increase efficiency and better accommodate applicants.

RUS’s Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) are intended to expand broadband access and adoption in America, advancing the goals of the Recovery Act by creating jobs and stimulating long-term economic growth and opportunity.

The first round of these grant and loan programs produced about 2,200 applications requesting nearly $28 billion in funding - almost seven times the amount of funding available in that round - for proposed broadband projects reaching all 50 U.S. states, five territories, and the District of Columbia.

The agencies are currently reviewing these applications and expect to award up to $4 billion in loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations in this round.

“This will get the funds out the door faster to stimulate the economy and create jobs. It gives applicants and communities a greater opportunity to come together to form networks and find more creative ways to connect to the global economy through broadband,” said Jonathan Adelstein, Administrator, RUS, USDA. “We are listening to applicants, reviewing applications received, and all indications suggest a need to revisit the application process. We will consider changes in the next NOFA to make the process more ‘applicant friendly’ from beginning to end.”

“Based on our experience with the first funding round, including the overwhelming response we’ve seen from applicants nationwide, we believe this consolidated approach brings a number of benefits,” said Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and Administrator of NTIA.

The agencies also announced they are seeking public comment on how best to administer the second round of funding for the programs in order to improve the applicant experience and maximize the ability of the programs to meet Recovery Act objectives.

“Stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide us with well-informed feedback on how the first round worked for applicants, the agencies will be able to make improvements to the process, and potential applicants will gain more time to form partnerships and create stronger project proposals. Ultimately, this approach can help us run the programs with increased efficiency and produce better results for the American public,” Strickling said.

The ARRA provided a total of $7.2 billion to NTIA and RUS to fund projects that will expand access to and adoption of broadband services. Of that funding, NTIA will utilize $4.7 billion for grants to deploy broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas in the U.S., expand public computer center capacity, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

RUS will use $2.5 billion in budget authority to support grants and loans to facilitate broadband deployment in primarily rural communities.

The Tribe has received encouragement and support from a large number of interested parties and individuals who are in immediate need of Broadband Internet services in their businesses and homes and government offices. We have also received strong encouragement from Mississippi Gov. Barbour’s Office.

The State of Mississippi is simultaneously pursuing ARRA funding for Broadband internet service provision Statewide. The Governor is submitting a grant application to the NTIA that will benefit all of Mississippi’s 82 counties, as well as the Choctaw Reservation.

The potential value of this Broadband project is extraordinary for the Tribe as a whole since there are eight Federally-recognized Choctaw communities scattered throughout east central Mississippi in six different counties, all of which are rural, isolated, economically disadvantaged, and largely unserved.

Broadband internet services are currently not available in the majority of residences of Tribal members and in many Tribal business locations, and we are hoping to improve these communication deficiencies.

The State’s and the Tribe’s grant applications are timely, and their goals and objectives complement each other very well. At the State level, planning is underway to install telecommunications towers in 82 counties and other infrastructure necessary for successful and comprehensive Middle Mile Services.

These towers will have a wide enough radial service area to benefit all of the Choctaw communities, which are situated in the following rural counties: Neshoba, Newton, Leake, Winston, Jones, and Kemper.

The State’s application for Middle Mile Broadband Service infrastructure through BTOP will mesh very well with the application for Last Mile Service through BIP, for which the Tribe itself is applying in this round two of ARRA funding competition.

The Tribe currently has an enrolled population of more than 10,000 members, most of whom live either on or

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Census Awareness Pow Wow held in Pearl River Community

The U.S. Census - MS Tribal Partnership Team recently sponsored a Census Awareness Pow Wow to motivate tribal member participation in the 2010 Census.

Over 150 were in attendance at the pow wow, held at the Pearl River Community Center on Thursday, March 11. Members of the Chahta Alla Youth Dancers, along with the Rez Boys drum group performed for the audience.

A stickball presentation was made by Jake York, as well as presentations by the Choctaw Coalition Planning Committee and the MS Tribal Partnership Team.

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the U.S. and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data are used to apportion congressional seats to states, to distribute more than $400 billion in federal funds to tribal, state and local governments each year and to make decisions about what community services to provide.

The 2010 Census form is one of the shortest census questionnaires in history and takes about 10 minutes to complete. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

For more information, go to www.2010census.gov.

PARTNERSHIP

.... continued from page five

National research has shown that positive relationships between youth and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters have a direct and measurable impact on children’s lives.

Little Brothers and Sisters are:

- More confident in their schoolwork performance;
- Able to get along better with their families;
- 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs;
- 27 percent less likely to begin using alcohol;
- 52 percent less likely to skip school.

Tribal Mi̱ko Denson then spoke to the students about his mentors and their influences throughout his years in Tribal government, business and the private sector.

When elected to his first term on the Choctaw Tribal Council in 1975, Mi̱ko Denson acknowledged his mentors included fellow council members Albert Farve, Luke Jimmie, William Comby, Jasper Henry, Maxine Dixon, and Frank Steve.

“When I first was elected to the council, I had to listen to them as they gave me an idea of what this tribe was about. Those were the people I grew up with,” said Denson.

But it was under the mentorship of former Tribal Chief Phillip Martin which inspired him to always strive for efficiency and to fight for the things the Tribe needed.

“(Phillip Martin) taught me we can be successful within our own communities. He taught me that whatever we want, we have to fight for it. We have to struggle to get the things we need. And once you show people how its done and it gets done right, then people create a new status of our structure that people appreciate... Working with the Tribal government for 35 years, I’ve learned a lot. I had a good mentor in Phillip Martin,” said Denson.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi Executive Director Joel Waters addressed the students and encouraged them to think about their roles as mentors and to be good leaders.

“I challenge you, are you going to be a good leader or a bad leader? That’s a pretty big question and I think you need to decide today what kind of leader do you want to be. We want to see these kids grow up and become good, productive citizens. Go out, make a good influence, be a good leader. It will help you more than it will help them,” said Waters.

The ceremony concluded with Mi̱ko Denson presenting a Choctaw basket to Waters.

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near the Choctaw Reservation in rural, economically disadvantaged communities. The unemployment rates in the six counties containing Choctaw communities range from 11.5 percent to 20.3 percent, exceeding average rates for both Mississippi and the U.S.

With the majority of Tribal members speaking Choctaw as their first language, many Choctaw citizens of the state face language barriers, and, amazingly, 48 percent of the Tribal population in Mississippi is below the age of 21.

These facts reveal striking implications not only for present need for improved internet services, but also for growing demand in coming years as more than 2,000 Choctaw infants, toddlers, and preschoolers enter school, and an additional 1,800 Choctaw students complete high school and either continue their post-secondary educations or enter the world of work, where Broadband services and strong communications skills will be required.

In addition to the State’s recognition of the above-mentioned Tribal demographics, another important facet of the strong working relationship between the State of Mississippi and the Choctaw Tribe. Since November 1997, the Executive Branches of State and Tribal governments have enjoyed an enduring Executive Accord signed by then-Governor Kirk Fordice and then-Tribal Chief Phillip Martin. This document officially recognizes the mutual respect held by the two governments for each other and declares their interdependence and cooperation for strong government-to-government relationships.

The State and Tribal Broadband Initiatives Projects will provide yet another opportunity for our collaboration in helping to ensure stronger, faster, more readily available internet services to all Mississippi citizens.

The Tribe anticipates learning of its successful grant application early this summer, and hopes to commence the installation of Internet infrastructure Reservation-wide under this three-year Federally-funded project.

Detention center posts visitor information sheet

Officials with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Adult Detention Center have released rules & regulations concerning visitation of inmates at the detention center.

All visits are scheduled at least three days in advance of the visit. Visits are scheduled on a first come-first serve basis. Immediate family will be given precedence. Call the Adult Detention Center to schedule a visit. You must be on the inmate’s Visitor List in order to visit.

Arrive 15 minutes before your visit starts. You will not be allowed to visit if you are late.

Visits last for 30 minutes. Tell the receptionist whom you wish to visit & present your identification to the receptionist.

Acceptable forms of identification include a Driver’s License or a Tribal or State Picture I.D. with date of birth.

People under the age of 18 are not allowed to visit unless they are the child (children) of the inmate, accompanied by a parent or legal custodian.

The MBCI Adult Detention Center is a tobacco-free facility.

Leave your personal belongings in your vehicle or check your personal property in a locker.

Examples of items that can be taken into the visitation area:

- Eyeglasses and/or false teeth;
- Belt & buckle (after being searched & approved by the Visiting Officer);
- Pictures, school work, etc., to be shown to the inmate during visits after the item has been approved by the Visiting Officer;
- Traditional clothing with safety pins is acceptable.

Examples of items that will not be permitted in the visitation area:

- Hats or caps;
- Coats;
- Jewelry (other than wedding ring);
- Medications/chemicals;
- Baby bottles;
- Children’s toys/books.

NOTHING MAY BE GIVEN TO AN INMATE DURING A VISIT.

Sign in on the visitor log. Be seated in the detention waiting until the staff calls for you for a search. All visitors will be searched by a walk through metal detector. If the metal detector activates, you may be subject to a pat search in order

..see VISITATION, pg. 8

VISITATION .... continued from page seven

to visit.

You will be treated professionally during the search & are expected to be respectful of staff. Disrespectful or inappropriate comments may result in a denied visit.

Do not leave small children unattended in the Law Enforcement Lobby, Detention Waiting or Children's Waiting Area. Do not smoke, eat or drink during a visit.

You are responsible for your children & children you are accompanying during the time you are at the MBCI Adult Detention Center.

Visits may be denied or suspended for the following reasons:

- Visitor is obviously under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- Visitor fails to consent to a pat search;
- Visitor attempts to give contraband or any other item to an inmate;
- Visitor is implicated in an escape plot;
- Visitor makes statements or gestures including that he or she may present a threat to any person or to institutional security.
- Visitor becomes disruptive, disorderly or unruly during a visit;
- There is an emergency situation in the Adult Detention Center.

The following rules apply to visitors & inmates:

- Dress must be appropriate at all times. The following is considered inappropriate:

-Muscle shirts;

-Halter tops;

-Midriffs;

-Dresses or shorts extending higher than 4 inches above knee;

-T-shirts or other clothing items bearing offensive or profane logos or messages;

-Clothing items that advocate alcohol, drug, violence or anti-government sentiment or gang affiliation.

- Gang signs may not be made at any time in the facility.
- The glass may not be hit with any object.
- There can be no statements or gestures posing a threat to any person or security.
- You may not be disrespectful, disorderly or unruly.
- You may only visit with the person that came to visit you or you came to visit.
- You must sit in the stool provide & remain seated throughout the visiting period. (Children may remain standing at the parent/guardian's side).

The MBCI Adult Detention Center is located at 125 River Ridge Circle, Choctaw Justice Complex. Visitors needing assistance with transportation to the Adult Detention Center may call Choctaw Transit at 601-650-7430 to schedule & arrange transportation.

CYJC workers graduate from academy

Three youth workers from the Choctaw Youth Justice Center (CYJC) completed the six-week training at the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, New Mexico and graduated on Feb. 18, 2010. The training consists of courses in: Jail Administration, Jail Security, Behavioral Science, Legal, Enforcement Techniques, Emergency Procedures, Inmate Management, Arrest Techniques, Defensive Tactics, as well as other National Juvenile detention Association specified courses. The CYJC, opened in April 2005, now has 100 percent certified officers. Congratulations to, pictured above, Dayanna Jackson (second from left), Cassandra Stephens (center) and Heather Vinet (second from right). They are pictured with their training sergeants (names unavailable).

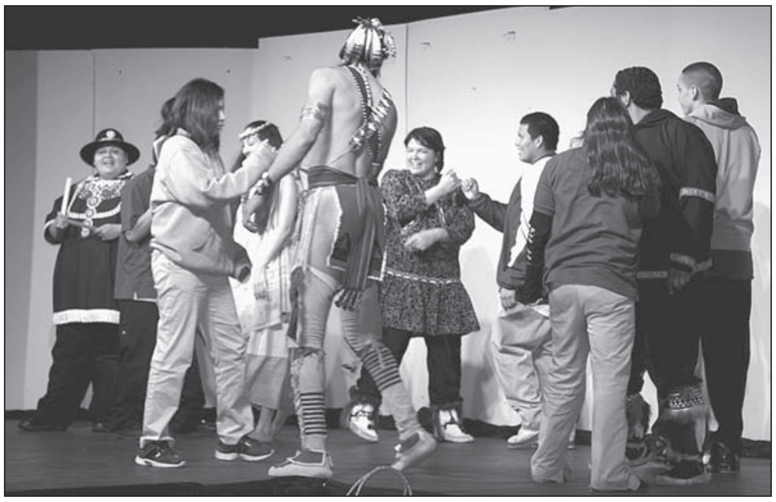
ECHO festival entertains in Philadelphia

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) hosted the Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) Performing Arts Festival at the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Arts Council Theatre in Philadelphia Feb. 23-24, 2010.

An estimated 1,900 students & adults were privileged to experience the cultural festival. After Philadelphia, the festival traveled to Oxford, Miss., for two stage performances & were broadcasted live on a radio show.

ECHO's Performing Arts Festival, now in its 10th season, brought together cultural performers from Massachusetts, Hawaii, Alaska, & the MBCI to create a collaborative performance art piece, based on a shared theme.

This year's theme, *Celebrate - Song, Dance & Story!* highlighted how stories, music & dance convey cultural traditions & knowledge from one generation to another & across geographical borders.



ECHO performers & several audience members participate on stage for a traditional Choctaw social dance.

Local performer Curtis "Buck" Willis Jr., a member of the MBCI, traveled with the Festival from mid-January to mid-March 2010, visiting Alaska, Hawaii & the continental U.S.

"Sharing, learning & creating such a journey was a great experience," said Willis.

Other performers included Ani Lokomaika 'i Lipscomb (Native Hawaiian) of the Bishop Museum; Annawon Weeden (Mashpee Wampanoag) of the Peabody Essex Museum; Allison Akootchook Warden (Inupiaq) of the Inupiat Heritage Center; Stephen Blanchett (Yup'ik/Inuit/African-American) of the Alaska Native Heritage Center; & Jose Manuel Vinagre (Portuguese-American) of the New Bedford ECHO Project.

Audiences learn about the customs & traditions of our country's Native & immigrant cultures & have an opportunity to compare & contrast them with each other & with their own traditions, developing an appreciation for all.

The MBCI Cultural Preservation Program is a grantee of ECHO, a project of the U.S. Department of

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NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Endeavors to share the Choctaw Culture with the public have been the focus for the Cultural Preservation Program. Activities & special events have been a channel for CPP staff to inform & educate Tribal members & others about the Choctaw traditions & customs.

From left, Crystal Ridge Development Club Officers Judith Wesley, Leona Clark & Joseph Wesley receive information of CPP services.

TUCKER COMMUNITY
UNITY BRINGS PEACE

Tucker Community members look on as CPP Director Roseanna Thompson, standing, tells about the program.

CPP Community Out Reach

In the early part of February, Tribal members in each of the eight communities were informed about the CPP & its services. CPP staff conducted presentations at Community Development Club meetings held in every community.

CPP Host ECHO Performing Arts Festival

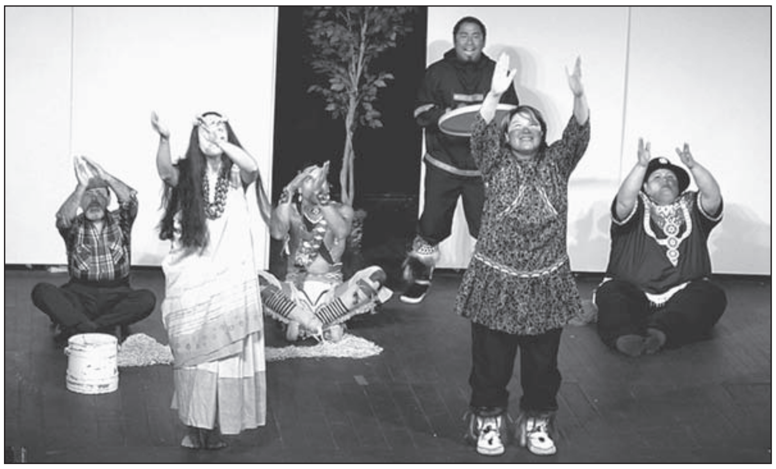
Through song, dance, & story, area Tribal Schools, Neshoba Central Elementary School & the general public were treated to a cultural experience on Feb. 23 & 24, 2010.

The MBCI Cultural Preservation Program hosted the 10th annual ECHO Performing Arts Festival (PAF) that featured a collaborative performance art piece that highlighted native & immigrant customs & traditions.

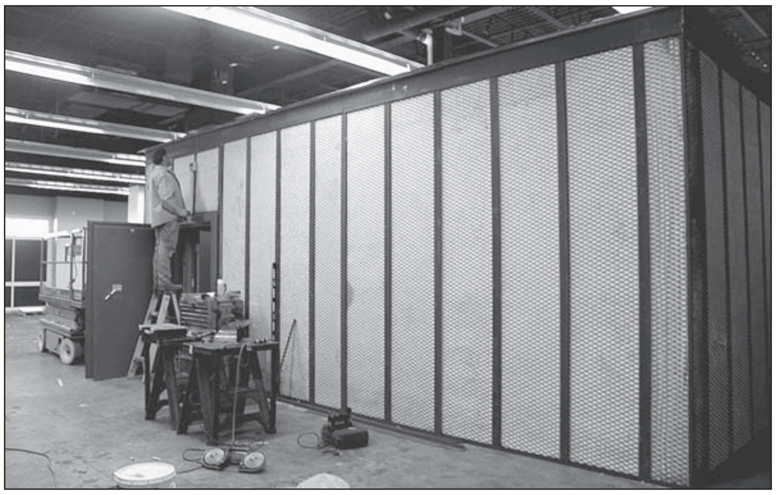
An estimated 1,900 students & adults were privileged with the opportunity to experience the cultural festival during the two-day peri-

......see CPP NEWS, pg. 10

Spectators pack the Philadelphia /Neshoba Arts Theatre for the ECHO Arts Festival.



Performers from Alaska, Hawaii, Massachusetts and CPP's own Curtis Willis, Jr. (seated far right) showcased traditional stories, music, & dance that captivated audiences.



Currently under construction is a modular archive vault.

Education. This award is shared by six partner organizations from Alaska, Hawaii, Massachusetts, & Mississippi.

The partners create culture-based learning experiences for students, teachers & communities through public programs, teacher resources, student programs, publications, & internships.

ECHO partner organizations seek to enhance appreciation of regional heritage & to facilitate dialogue & understanding between communities & individuals.

Curtis "Buck" Willis, Jr., (pictured right) is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) in Neshoba County, Miss. He is a bilingual speaker in Choctaw & English & is currently learning to speak Spanish as well.

Willis works as a Translator/Data Entry Clerk for the MBCI Tribal Language Program. He is currently working on a Mississippi Choctaw dictionary, to be published in the near future. Willis has also served as a trainer, presenter & teaches the Choctaw language for the Choctaw Tribal School System & throughout the Choctaw communities.

During his spare time, Willis enjoys Choctaw social dancing & chanting, making stickball (towa), stickball aprons, beadwork, & miniature mortar (kitih).

CPP NEWS

continued from page nine

od.

After the short stint in Philadelphia, the ECHO PAF team traveled to Oxford, Miss., to give two stage performances & a live radio show.

New Vault Initiates Phase 2 of Cultural Heritage Center

Not long after opening up the doors of the Institute of Chahta Immi, located at the Choctaw Town Center, CPP leaders - in coordination with IKBI Inc., & the ECHO Project - put into action Phase 2 of the Cultural Heritage Center.

Beginning the first of the year, a Fire Lock Modular Archive Vault was constructed in the Cultural Heritage Center. The vault will be utilized by the CPP Tribal Archives to preserve a growing collection of historical & cultural documents, photo images, artifacts, audio recordings, & video recordings.

Bell & Monk Attend Workshop

In view of new housing for CPP Tribal Archives services, Archives staff members are preparing themselves to provide quality services for the Tribe.

On Feb. 25-26, 2010, Assistant Archivist Sonja Monk & Research Assistant Amanda Bell traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend an Archives Management workshop.

The workshop provided both Amanda & Sonja opportunity to gain valuable information on policies & procedures for archival work for Tribal organizations.

McMillan & Thompson Visit Coushatta Heritage Center

On Feb. 25-26, Cultural Education Specialist Phyllis McMillan & CPP Director Roseanna Thompson visited the Coushatta Heritage Center in Kinder, LA.

The CPP staff met with the Coushatta Cultural employees to obtain ideas from the Coushatta Tribe's Cultural Center. Ideas gleaned from the trip are intended to be evaluated & utilized by CPP for the development of the MBCI Cultural Heritage Center.

Office DEPOT

Pictured from left are Sonja Monk, presenter Vernon Geronimo Lujan & Amanda Bell.

Future Site of
COUSHATTA HERITAGE CENTER
REMEMBERING OUR PAST - PRESERVING OUR FUTURE

Following a guided tour, Roseanna Thompson (center) & Phyllis McMillan (right) pose with Bertney Langley, Coushatta Heritage Center Director.

The Leader in Me concept

On Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Choctaw Central High School library, the Tribal Education Services Officer, Dalton J. Henry, & the school principals met with representative of the Franklin Covey group - Chad Smith, Shawn Moon & Stephanie Donnelly - to discuss the potential to implement The Leader in Me.

Today's changing world has a whole new set of rules. We must give our students the tools to develop essential life skills & characteristics they'll need for success in the 21st century. We only get one chance to prepare our students for a future that none of us can possibly predict. What are we going to do with that one chance?

The world has entered an era of the most profound & challenging change in human history. In addition, studies have identified what is referred to as a "skills gap"- a difference in how students are prepared for the workforce & the skills & character employers are seeking to match the demands of today's global economy. What if our children could be better prepared to meet the future challenges of our ever-changing world?

The Leader in Me process helps develop the essential life skills & characteristics students need in order to thrive in the 21st century.

The Leader in Me is designed to be integrated into a school's core curriculum & everyday languages so that it isn't "one more thing" teachers & administrators have to do. It becomes part of the culture, gaining momentum & producing improved results year after year, benefiting schools & students in the following ways:

- Develops students who have the skills & self-confidence to succeed as leaders in the 21st century.
- Decreases discipline referrals.
- Teaches & develops character & leadership through existing core curriculum.
- Improves academic achievement.
- Raises levels of accountability & engagement among both parents & staff.

The Leader in Me process also helps to create a common language within a school, built on proven principle-based leadership skills found in Dr. Stephen R. Covey's best-selling book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People:

- Habit 1: Be Proactive® • You're in Charge
- Habit 2: Begin With the

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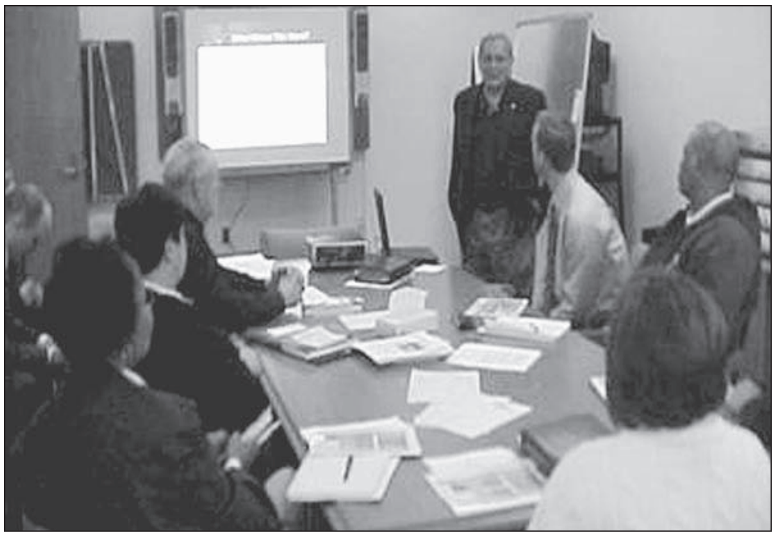


Mr. Henry provided copies of the book, "The Chief", to the principals to be added to the school libraries.

Friday Fun Afternoon

Students & staff at Bogue Chitto Elementary School held “Friday Fun” activities on Feb. 26.

The staff challenged the junior high girls’ & boys’ basketball teams to a friendly contest on the basketball court. The male staff then played the female staff. These games provided fun for all involved, including the spectators.

The games helped raise money for student incentives for improvements in math & reading for the third & fourth nine weeks.

Teachers & parents maintained the concessions. Students were able to purchase popcorn, hot dogs, pickles, & drinks.

Everyone enjoyed the afternoon activities. Parents commented favorably on the activities & the excitement exhibited by the students & staff.

The next fun afternoon will be March 12 at 1:30. Students in grades 5-8 will play each other. The male staff will have an opportunity to redeem themselves on the court against the female teachers.

Parents are invited to attend & support their children at BCES.

End in Mind® • Have a Plan

• Habit 3: Put First Things First® • Work First, Then Play

• Habit 4: Think Win-Win® • Everyone Can Win

• Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood® • Listen Before You Talk

• Habit 6: Synergize® • Together Is Better

• Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw® • Balance Feels Best

This is one of the initiatives we are planning for in the budget planning process to implement in school year 2010-11 for three schools as a pilot project.

Day tutoring at BCES

The day tutors at Bogue Chitto Elementary School (BCES) serve approximately 50 students each semester. These students receive additional help in the classroom & also individual help. Students work on skills & objectives to improve their MCT-2 scores & also achieve other goals in education required of students at BCES. Janette French serves as reading/language tutor & Sandra Holdiness serves as math tutor. Students are rewarded for their attendance & achievements at the end of each semester. In some cases, students are taught on a one-on-one basis. Mr. W. F. Bell provides additional resources for tutors & awards for students at the end of each semester. Pictured above are several students taking part in the tutoring program.

Students raise money for St. Jude

Mrs. Haynes’s 4th grade class at Pearl River Elementary raised $566 for St. Jude’s. They enjoyed an ice cream party for all their hard work. Pictured, front row, are Keyshaun Nickey, Fichik Thomas, Narron Cotton, Reyes Willis, Daniel Jordan; second row, Kainen Williams, Tyus Whitecrow, Talia Guyette, Justina Dixon, Keylan McMillan, Maleighia Joe, Micaiah Tubby; back row, Shayla Chickaway, Julius Billy, Lauren Ben, & Deanna Lasarge.

Students learns about electricity

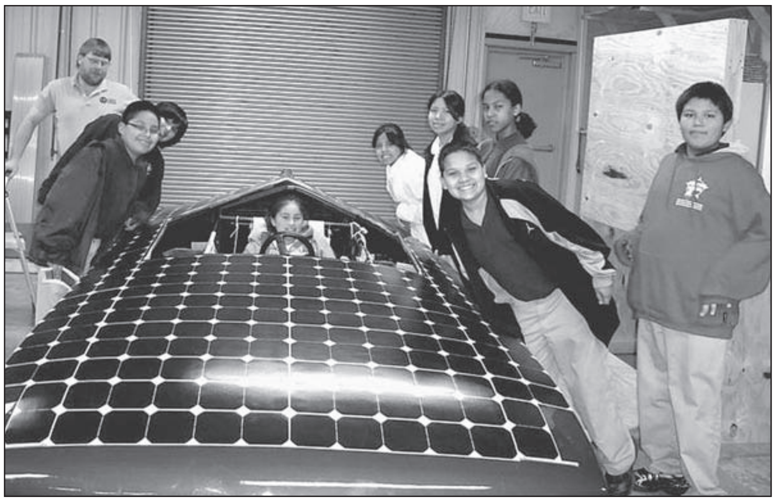
The National Theatre for Children provided a program for Red Water Elementary School students on March 8, 2010. The show was provided by TVA and local power companies. The very entertaining play taught students about energy & electricity, energy resources, unwise energy usage, & ways to use energy efficiently.

TVA
and your local power company

RWES attendance trophy recipients

Congratulations to the eighth grade class at Red Water Elementary. They were awarded the Attendance Trophy for the month of February with an ADA rate of 96.99 percent. Students include Miles Yazzie, John Evans, Kristin Josh, Sharissa Jefferson, Peyton Willis, Cassandra Willis, & Delisa Chickaway. The class is taught by Jennifer Olmedo & Shane Shumake.

Choctaw Challengers visit OTC



Pictured from left are Nicholas McMillian, Adonis Willis, Joey Long, Hannah Williams (seated), Breanna Isaac, Hallie Denson, Emily Thames, Josiah Monk, & Robert York.

Mrs. Germany's Pearl River Elementary School sixth grade Choctaw Challenger class recently took a "mini" field trip to the Occupational Training Center to see the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) solar car and robot.

Mr. Joey Long, mentor to both the solar car project and FIRST robotics, gave the students a tour of the facility and an overview of the CCHS Solar Car Project and the high school FIRST robotics program.

Most of the students have participated in Lego Robotics competitions while in elementary school so they were somewhat familiar with the idea of robots; however, the large robot used by the high school teams was a new concept.

Mr. Long showed students the robot and demonstrated some of the components of this year's challenge which includes the robot playing soccer and "chinning" itself on a bar.

The solar car has been in many parades and programs, so the car itself was not new to the students but being able to see it up close and find out just how it works was very exciting. Mr. Long explained how the high school students had built the car, how the car works, and told them about the track race and cross country races the car has participated in. Hannah Williams was lucky enough to sit in the solar car driver's seat to get a first hand idea of what is like to drive the vehicle.

After the tour, Ms. Cathy Cheatham, Culinary Arts instructor, provided drinks and chocolate chip cookies that had been prepared by the Culinary Arts students. The Choctaw Challenger students enjoyed visiting the Warrior Café for this treat.

Students were very interested in both the solar car and the robot and asked many questions. The Choctaw Challengers all expressed excited interest in being a part of both the solar car project and FIRST robotics team when they attend high school.

"This is awesome!" remarked Josiah Monk. "I can't wait to get to high school!"

Tucker students visit Mi̱ko Denson's office

The pre-Kindergarten class of Tucker Elementary School recently visited Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson's office. A REALe book that the class created was presented to Mi̱ko Denson & his staff. The REALe book program is a program the Choctaw Tribal Schools implemented for all pre-K & kindergarten classes in the Choctaw Tribal School system. Teachers for the Tucker pre-K class are Melanie Benn & Vickie Steve. For their very first REALe book, the class focused on Choctaw culture. We would like to say Ya-ko-ki for implementing the REALe book program for our children. What a success for our *Alla-cho-pinta*! Pictured above are, front row from left, Kezmond Carter, Coby Tre' Willis, Shaylynn Hunter, Sydney Bell, Nautica Bacon, Lilah Reynolds, Ceanna Willis, Lexie Love; back row, Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, instructor Vickie Steve, Chief of Staff Barry McMillan, instructor Melanie Benn, & nurse Vickie Singletary.

CCHS Chahta Warriors Team #590 participates in Peachtree Regional

Members of the CCHS Chahta Warriors Team #590

The Choctaw Central High school robotics team competed in the Peachtree Regional Robotics Competition in Duluth, Georgia, March 4-6. The "Chahta Warriors" finished sixth overall.

Over fifty teams representing seven states battled with their robots during the intense competition. The competition is designed to inspire recognition in science and technology. Over a period of six short weeks, students team up with professional engineers to design, build and computer program a machine to accomplish certain specified tasks. Chahta Warrior team members worked hard two nights a week and on Saturdays during the build season. Their hard work and dedication paid off.

More important that the awards, our team members experienced, first hand, the value of professionalism, teamwork, and dedication. Many are now enthusiastic about potential careers in engineering and technolo-

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Anderson selected for honor

Shawn Anderson, pictured right, was selected as STAR student for the third nine weeks for the Automotive Service Technology class at the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Career Technical Center. This award is based on good attendance, participation, & behavior. Congratulations Shawn!

All Dancers, Drums and Princesses Welcome

Choctaw Central High School
END-OF-THE-YEAR
CONTEST POWWOW
Fri-Sun, May 28-30, 2010
MS Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation

Please be respectful and do not bring drugs or alcohol to this event

Head Staff:

M.C.: Capt. Harold "Doc" Comby (MS)
Arena Director: TBA
Head Man Dancer: Todd Johnston (AL)
Head Lady Dancer: Laretta Weaver (AL)
Head Gourd Dancer: Joseph Bohanon, Ph.D (OK)
Host Drum: Southern Pine Singers (MS)

Schedule of Events

Grand Entry: Friday-7 PM; Saturday-2 PM/7PM; Sunday-2 PM
Grounds will open at 8 AM each day and close at 11 PM each night.
Gourd Dancing: Friday-6 PM; Saturday-1 PM/ 6 PM Sunday-1 PM

All singers, dancers, and staff will be fed at lunch and dinner

$25 Vendor Fee

Free Admission to all!

For more information, contact:
Bronson Henderson, Powwow Committee Chairman
bronsonhenderson1@yahoo.com/(601)-562-9969

gy.

The team is grateful to the mentors and sponsors for making it possible to continue the robotics program at Choctaw Central High School. Their support on this project has a direct bearing on its success.

Chahta Warriors Team #590 are sponsored by NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center, ERC, Inc., and Applied Geo Technologies, Inc.

BASKETBALL .... continued from page one

said second year Lady Warriors head coach Jennie Vance. "I don't think we did what we did to get here. I always tell them you get a lead, you put someone down and they'll lay down. Tonight, we're the ones who laid down. I don't ever want us to do that."

In their eighth appearance in the state tournament since 1996, the regular season 5-3A division champs Lady Warriors (24-8) were carrying a six game post-season winning streak.

They trounced Kemper County 92-35 and homestanding Heidelberg 70-68 to capture the 5-3A division tournament title.

In the South State tournament qualifier, the Lady Warriors defeated Collins 67-40 at Choctaw Central. They then hit the road to Franklin County where they defeated Velma Jackson 80-53, Sumrall 81-55, & homestanding Franklin County 62-59 for the South State championship and a number one seed in the state tournament.

Ripley, who lost to Belmont in the North State finals, came into the state tournament as a number two seed.

It was the third meeting between Choctaw and Ripley. Ripley defeated Choctaw 65-50 in the semifinal enroute to the 2003 state title. The following year, Choctaw returned the favor with a 72-51 victory in the 2004 finals for their first 3A title.

Choctaw won titles in (Class 2A) 1996, 1997, 1999, (Class 3A) 2004 and 2005. They were also runner-up in 2006.

An estimated 2,800 were in attendance in the "Big House" as Choctaw freshman Kristen Dixon had two of her four total blocks early in the game to stifle the Ripley offense. Ripley would bounce back with a 14-2 run. Choctaw junior Anissa Allen nailed a 3-pointer to cut the lead 14-5. She had five points in the game as Ripley took a 19-10 lead at the end of the first.

Choctaw came with a flurry early in the second for a 7-0 run to cut the lead by two 19-17. After a basket by Ripley, Choctaw's Deshayna Hickman scored four of her total points to tie the game at 21 with 5:56 on the clock. Ripley then broke away with a 14-8 run for a 35-29 lead at half.

"We missed free throws and lay ups and we still were able to stay with them," said Vance.

Choctaw was 3-of-10 from the free throws, 2-of-5 three-pointers and 12-of-21 field goals in the first half. Ripley was 5-of-7 free throws, 4-of-9 three-pointers and 13-of-25 field goals.

Choctaw's Dixon scored

.............continued page 14

The Lady Warriors are pictured above after capturing the South State title over the homestanding Franklin County Lady Dawgs 62-59 on Feb. 22. Team members include, kneeling from left, Breanna Vaughn, Mildred Jimmie, Shauna Lewis, Chenice Ben, Delanda Chickaway, Ashland "Coby" Wallace, Kristen Dixon, DeShayna Hickman; back row, manager Rakisha Guyette, Shanita Morris, Anissa Allen, Lila Willis, Audrey Jimmie, Malaney Nickey, Krystal Robinson, manager Mahlih Vaughn, head coach Jennie Vance, & assistant coach Elyse Willis.

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WARRIORS
10

four of her eight total points in the third but Ripley held a 13-11 advantage as Jayla Chills scored eight of her 11 total points to give the Lady Tigers a 48-40 lead.

Choctaw senior Ashland "Coby" Wallace scored five in the fourth but the Lady Warriors were outscored 23-11. Ripley's Anna Johnson scored 12 of her game high 16 points in the final quarter to advance the Lady Tigers into the finals with a 71-51 win.

"In the second half, we stopped boxing out. At the beginning of the fourth quarter it seemed like we were going to get a run going. We all got our hands on the ball and Ripley come up with it. Nothing went our way. It just wasn't our night," said Vance.

For the contest, Choctaw was 6-of-14 from the free throws, 3-of-19 three-pointers and 21-of-53 field goals. Ripley was 13-of-19 free throws, 6-of-15 three-pointers and 26-of-48 field goals.

LEFT, *Choctaw freshman Kirsten Dixon drives to the basket as Ripley's 6-1 Becca Ruckes guards her.*

"We weren't focused. It was disappointing for all of us. Many of the players matured for next year so they'll be good. I say good luck to those girls who are going to be playing next season, I'll be out there to support them," said Choctaw senior Delanda Chickaway. She had a team high 12 points, six rebounds and five assists.

"As a senior, I wanted to make it this far and bring the gold back home, but we didn't make it. I'm just very proud of the girls that were by our side through the whole game. It was a tough game and we made it this far," said Wallace. She had 9 points, two rebounds and two assists.

LADY
20
WARRIORS
LADY

Choctaw senior Delanda Chickaway drives past a Ripley defender on her way to a team high 12 points, six rebound & five assists.

"We fell short. All we can do is just work harder. Next year, I know what to expect and I'll try my hardest to come back," said junior Chenice Ben. She scored seven points, had seven rebounds and two assists.

Also scoring for Choctaw were

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Warriors fall to Forest 71-70 in South State

The last time the Choctaw Central Warriors made it to the state tournament in Jackson was in 2005. This season, destiny seemed to be on their side for a return trip. Unfortunately, the Forest Bearcats were the obstacles on their road.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the homestanding Warriors were eliminated from contention 71-70 by the Bearcats in the second round of the Class 3A South State tournament, hosted by Choctaw Central High School.

The Warriors wrapped up the regular season as Division 5-3A runner-up and were named the South State tournament host with their thrashing of Collins 100-53 on Feb. 16 in the South State first round qualifier.

Having home court advantage mattered little when the Warrior drew Forest in the second round of the tournament. The two teams had met previously in the season with the Warriors surviving the last encounter by three points. Their rematch would hold importance this time as the winner advanced a step closer to Jackson while the losing team closed out their season.

In a game filled with excitement, both teams battled avidly in a match up that literally came down to the final seconds.

The Warriors held a one point lead to end the opening quarter 12-11.

At the start of the second, the Warriors extended their lead briefly, only to have Forest make a set of runs midway in the quarter to outscore the Warriors 33-29 going into the half.

In the third, the Warriors continued to battle and on several occasions cut Forest's lead, only to have the Bearcats respond to keep the Warriors at bay with a 55-49 lead.

Momentum swung back and forth in the fourth quarter as the lead changed on several possessions. The Warriors battled back to regain the lead 64-60, only to have Forest answer right back.

In true die hard fashion, the Warriors would make a valiant effort from the clock striking midnight, but their fate was sealed by a turnover and two missed attempts in the closing seconds of the game for a 71-70 loss to the Bearcats, the eventual South State runner-up and Class 3A champions.

The Warriors (21-8) were led by Frankie Garcia's game high 22 points. Also scoring were Garrick Stoliby with 11, Deanrick Isom 9, Kahlon Logan 8, Joshua Thomas 6, Justin Bell 6, Lee McMillan 6, & Christopher Willis 2.

Welcome To
CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
"Home of Champions"
1999 2-A STATE GIRLS & BOYS CHAMPION
LADY WARRIORS & WARRIORS
CHOCTAW CENTRAL
WARRIORS
13
WARRIORS
1
FOREST
13

Warriors Deanrick Isom, Garrick Stoliby & Kahlon Logan go up against a Forest player in the South State tournament at CCHS.

Scoring for Forest were Darnell Hughes with his team high 19 points, Lavadius Lyles 13, Josh Pinkston 13, Ladence Scott 12, Detoddrick Pinkston 9, & Defredrick Mitchell 5.

LEFT, *Choctaw senior Ashland "Coby" Wallace drives in towards the basket. She had 9 points, two rebounds & two assists for the game.* **RIGHT**, *Choctaw junior Chenice Ben, far right, looks for an open team mate. She had seven points, seven rebounds & two assists in the game.*

Mildred Jimmie with four points and Shauna Lewis two.

For Ripley, Becca Ruckes scored a game high 16 points, Shunquest Howell 15, Lanaesha Cox eight, and Mersades Carter five.

"In the dressing room I told them we were starting over right now for next year because our people settle for nothing less than this and that's where we want to be. We had a really good year," said Vance.

RIGHT, *Choctaw sophomore Mildred Jimmie, right, defends against a Ripley player.*

Golden Eagles Intertribal Society
8th Annual Powwow
April 9-11, 2010 ~ Southern Miss Campus
Medicine Wheel Garden, N. 32nd Street, Hattiesburg, MS
Friday, April 9~School Day~Arts and Crafts Demonstrations
Gourd Dancing 6 p.m. & Grand Entry 7:30 p.m.
Head Man Dancer:
Michael Roberts
Head Lady Dancer:
Sonya Smith
All active duty service members and veterans are welcome.
Saturday, April 10~Gourd Dancing Noon & Grand Entry 7:00 p.m.
All nations, dancers, drums and princesses are welcome.
Emcee:
Harold Comby
Arena Director:
Ken Dixon
Head Gourd Dancer:
Wilson Spottedbird
Head Singer:
Gene Logan
Sunday, April 11~Gourd Dancing Noon & Grand Entry 1:00 p.m.
For more information, contact Tammy Greer (tammy.greer@usm.edu) or 601.466.0948
Honoring our Military
~those who are serving~
-And Those who have served-

CCHS basketball squads watch Dale vs. USM

Lady Warrior Basketball
Lets Go #21 Mystee!

LEFT, *Pictured with Mystee Dale, center, were members of the CCHS basketball teams.* **BELOW**, *Mystee with former Lady Warriors coach & current CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson.*

On Saturday, Feb. 6, the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) Lady Warriors and Warriors basketball teams visited the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg to watch former Lady Warrior standout Mystee Dale play in a match up between the Marshall Thundering Herd and USM Golden Eagles in a Conference USA contest.

Dale, a junior guard with the Thundering Herd, had 0 points, 2 rebounds, an assist & 3 steals as they were on the losing end to the Golden Eagles 67-39.

The CCHS basketball teams were treated to a tailgate supper before heading to Reed Green Coliseum where they had pictures taken with Dale during pre-game warmups.

Dale, a 2007 graduate of Choctaw Central, helped lead the Lady Warriors to back-to-back Class 3A state titles in 2004 & 2005. During her career at Choctaw Central she was named MVP in her junior and senior seasons and multiple All-Region, All-State and All-District teams.

In her collegiate career, Dale spent her freshman and sophomore years playing for the Lady Warriors of East Central Community College (ECCC) in Decatur. Her highlights include being named an NJCAA All-American, team MVP, 2nd Team All-Region, All-South State, and NJCAA Player of

..............see DALE, pg. 16

DALE .... continued from page fifteen

the Week. She led ECCC to the Region 24 Championship in 2007 and 2008 and went to the NJCAA National Tournament in 2008.

This season, Marshall finished with a 14-16 overall record, 6-10 in C-USA league standings. They were defeated March 8 in the first round of the C-USA Tournament by the University of Central Florida 59-57 in Tulsa, Okla. In that contest, Dale had a career-high 21 points, including 10-of-13 from the free throw line.

Daughter of Kenneth & Wendy Dale, Mystee is majoring in Business and Management.

RezBonez

We would like to thank the Community for Making the Grand Opening a Huge Success

Check with us for a new shipment of Native Movies and Music

For the entire month of April
25 % off all original Art by the Owner Irvin Cravatt

Store Hours
Monday – Friday
10 am – 6 pm
Saturday
12 Noon – 7pm
Closed on Sunday

462 East Beacon St, Philadelphia, MS 39350

601-389-2720

rezbonez@gmail.com

Congratulations to L'Ree Thompson, winner of the grand opening door prize drawing on Feb. 26. Pictured is L'Ree & family with owner Irvin Cravatt, right.

Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center
A SAFE PLACE FOR CHOCTAW CHILDREN

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. At this time we, the staff of Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center would like to remind parents and caregivers the information and statistics about child abuse.

Child abuse and neglect often takes place in the home and comes from a person the child knows well. There are 4 major types of child maltreatment.

Neglect is failure to provide for a child's basic needs.

Physical abuse is physical injury as a result of hitting, kicking, shaking, burning or otherwise harming a child.

Sexual abuse is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification.

Emotional abuse is any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth, including constant criticism, threats, and rejection.

In 2007, the national child maltreatment statistic showed about 3.2 million reports were made to child protective services concerning the safety and well being of approximately 5.8 million children worldwide. As a result, 794,000 children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect. 60 percent were neglected, more than 10 percent were physically abused, less than 10 percent were sexually abused and less than 5 percent were emotionally abused.

If you or anyone you know is being abused or are abusing a child, please call and make a report. You may make a report to the Children and Family Services, at 601.650.1741 or to the Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center at 601-663-7790. **No child deserves to be abused.**

This project was supported by Grant No. 2006-VI-GX-0010 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Our time to raise awareness about child abuse

STORY OF THE BLUE RIBBON

The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Prevention Campaign had its early beginnings following the death of a very young child.

In spring 1989, Bonnie Finney, a Virginia grandmother received the devastating news that her beloved grandson had died of injuries inflicted by his parents. In an expression of her grief and outrage, this grandmother did something that has given us a symbol, around which we rally for the cause of child abuse prevention.

She tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her van as a way to remember "the bruised and battered body of her grandson" and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. In Bonnie's own words: The blue ribbon serves as a constant reminder to fight for protection of our children. Please wear a blue ribbon. Put one on your car. Give one to your friends. Tell them what it means. You may save a child's life!

Her simple idea, to wear or display a blue ribbon to show support for her child abuse prevention was picked up by grass roots organizations across the county.

The act of one grandmother thousands of miles away leads us to this day. Just think what could happen if each one of us helped to spread the word to a few of the people that we come in contact with each day. The groundswell of support that would follow just might be enough to move us towards the day when our homes and communities are completely safe.

The Choctaw Children & Family Services will be planning activities for the month of April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. For more information on activities, please contact Kristin Clegg at 601-650-1741 or 650-1725

EARTHQUAKES IN MISSISSIPPI?

submitted by Douglas Williams, MBCI Dept. of Homeland Security/Emergency Management

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour declared February 1-5 Mississippi's Earthquake Awareness Week.

In Mississippi, a sub-tropical region, we live with pretty much of everything that could cause a disaster - hurricanes, tornados, hot/humid temperatures, freezing temperatures, occasional snow, ice storms, thunderstorms, and a nuclear power station.

Earthquake is maybe the least of our worries in Mississippi but the threat of it occurring does exist. Here in the U.S., only California & Alaska have to worry about the 'Big Quakes', or so we may think.

In the past few months, there have been reports of earthquakes. On Jan. 20, 2010, a 3.3 magnitude was felt near Lynn, Ark., about 36 miles northwest of Jonesboro. On Feb. 10, 2010, near Virgil, Ill., about 50 miles northwest of Chicago, a 3.8 magnitude was felt. Some residents of Wisconsin, Iowa & Indiana claimed to have felt the earthquake.

On Jan. 12, 2010, a most catastrophic earthquake, a 7.0 magnitude, occurred in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. Death toll could reach 200,000.

On Feb. 27, 2010, a Chilean earthquake occurred off the coast of the Maule Region of Chile, a magnitude of 8.8 lasting about three minutes. The estimated death toll was 723 people, but many more have been reported missing. Hawaii, including 53 countries, issued Tsunami warnings.

The earthquake was so powerful that it may have shortened the length of the day by a microsecond & moved the earth's rotation by 3 inches.

A brief history of Earthquakes in Mississippi

Almost 200 years ago (Dec. 16, 1811), the most powerful earthquake in U.S. history with a magnitude believed to be of about 8.0, shook Mississippi as far south to the Gulf Coast.

The earthquake was centered near the town of New Madrid in Missouri (which the name New Madrid fault line derives from). Witnesses reported the quake was felt as far as the Atlantic coast.

Witness accounts reported seeing the Mississippi River change its course & flowed backward for several hours. The river flowing backward believed to have created ReelFoot Lake in Tenn. The banks of the Mississippi River fell into the river & trees over the bank fell in every direction. Many of modern day housing could not withstand the shake & came crumbling down.

The after shocks continued into February of 1812. We can only imagine how our ancestors felt when it hit.

On Dec. 17, 1931, a 4.6 magnitude - so far the largest earthquake occurring inside the state - shook Charleston, Miss., & Tallahatchie County. The shock was felt in Alabama, Arkansas & Tennessee.

On Feb. 1, 1955, along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, an earthquake was strongly felt in Gulfport, Biloxi, Pass Christian, & Bay St. Louis.

On June 4 & June 20 of 1967, north of Greenville, Miss., two earthquakes occurred. On June 4, the quake measured a magnitude of 3.8; on June 29, a second earthquake occurred with a magnitude of 3.4.

On March 29, 1972, an earthquake centered in the New Madrid, Missouri region, reached Northern part of Mississippi.

The last recorded earthquake in Mississippi by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) was on June 2, 2009. A magnitude of 2.2 was felt 20 miles southwest of Olive Branch, Miss.

In today's setting, if another major earthquake along the New Madrid fault zone occurred it could destroy buildings, bridges, roads, dams, levees, power lines, break down communications, other infrastructure, & isolate areas were it would be difficult for emergency personal to reach the victim. Only quickest possible way to get to a victim would be by a helicopter.

The MBCI Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Management contacted Oliver Boyd, Ph.D., Research Geophysicist with the USGS in Memphis, Tenn., & asked the possibility of in earthquake in Mississippi.

According to Dr. Boyd, the New Madrid earthquakes are most responsible for earthquake hazard in central Mississippi. In central Mississippi, there is a 2 percent chance in the next 50 years of exceeding 10 percent due to these earthquakes.

.........see QUAKES, pg. 18

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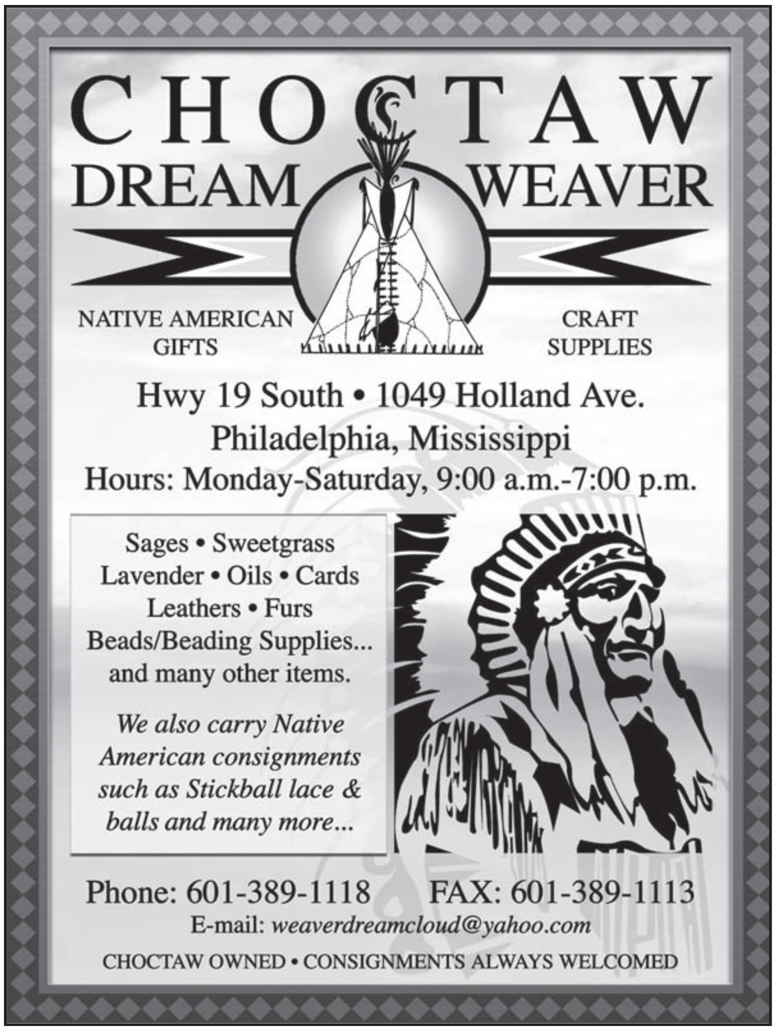

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OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
CALL DEESANDRA BEN @ 601-650-1612.

QUAKES .... continued from page seventeen

MBCI's Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Management is working to make sure our Choctaw communities & visitors are safe. We encourage & remind the importance of Choctaw families, and/or individuals to be more self sufficient & do all they can to be prepared as well.

Developing a family disaster plan would be a good start. Keep up-to-date on current weather & disasters that are affecting our country & the world. Don't get caught off guard!

In the near future, we will develop a brochure for preparation for any disasters & set up community meetings for mitigation planning.

When an earthquake hits, what to do if you're indoors or outdoors

- **DROP** to the ground, take **COVER** by getting under something sturdy, like a table or other piece of furniture. If there is none around to get under, get down near an interior wall & cover your head & neck with your arms & hands; and **HOLD ON** to the furniture or to your head & neck until the shaking stops.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors & walls, & anything that could fall.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on & protect your head with a pillow. If you are under a heavy ceiling/light fixture, move to a safer place.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops & its safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.
- Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.

When an earthquake hits, what to do if you're outdoors

- Move away from buildings, streetlights, & utility wires. Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

Reservation dump sites: harmful, costly... & illegal

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Office of Environmental Protection, in coordination with Choctaw Recycling, recently traveled to the Bogue Homa Community to conduct an open dump cleanup.

Items removed from the two locations visited included tires, trash, and construction debris. The removal of these materials required a work crew of several employees and the mobilization of two Tribal vehicles.

Illegal dumping is a persistent problem on reservation lands and poses adverse effects to human health, the

..........continued next page

PRINCESS SERVES AS JUDGE... *Reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis served as one of the judges for the 32nd Annual Brighton Seminole Princess Pageant on Feb. 18, 2010 in Brighton, Fla.* **LEFT**, *pictured from left are Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Cheyenne Nunez, Choctaw Princess Willis and Brighton Miss Seminole Brianna Nunez.* **RIGHT**, *Princess Willis, left, is pictured with one of the judges, Miss Florida Teen USA Alyssa Rivera.*

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NO DUMPING
AREA PATROLLED
VIOLATORS WILL BE
PROSECUTED

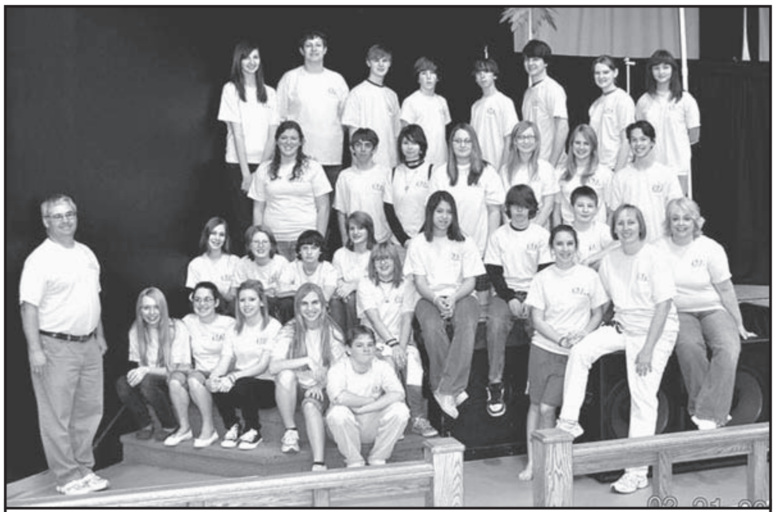
environment and to the quality of life. Additionally, the presence of dump sites on fee lands owned by the Tribe delays the process of getting those properties placed in trust status until all dump sites on those properties can be cleaned up.

Unfortunately, the Office of Environmental Protection and Choctaw Recycling must conduct cleanup operations like these several times per year, often repeating operations at locations that have previously been cleaned up.

MBCI has received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to identify dump sites found within reservation boundaries so that these sites can be placed in a nationwide database that will make the Tribe eligible to receive additional cleanup funds.

The Office of Environmental Protection would greatly appreciate your assistance in the effort to locate illegal dump sites. If you know of a dump site in your community, please call the MBCI Environmental Hotline at (601) 663-7510 and leave a message with any information you have that would allow us to visit and survey the site.

The Office of Environmental Protection does not require a name and phone number and will honor the anonymity of any person who wishes to provide information.



VBS & PUPPET SHOW!

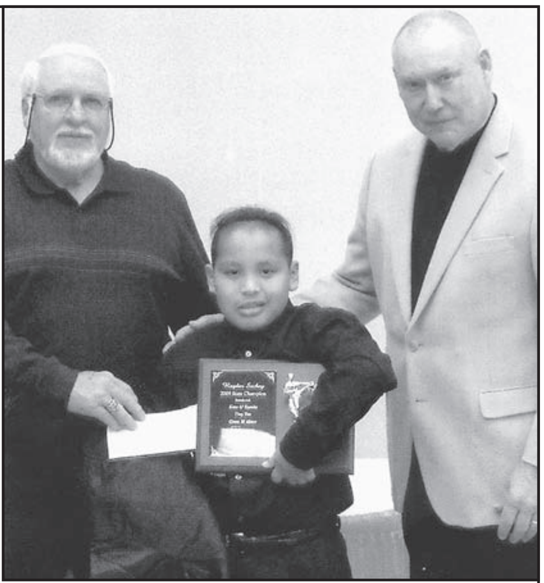
Saturday, April 17, 2010

Pearl River Baptist Church

For children ages 5-14; youth ages 15-18

- 2 p.m. - VBS activities, including storytelling - *Ammóna Isht Áhikít Iya Isht Anno_pa* - A Story about the Beginning (Choctaw/English language story booklets provided for all participants).
- Puppet workshop for youth.
- 7 p.m. - Puppet show: **Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat** (presented by Christ in Action puppet ministry from Asbury Church in Madison, Ala.).
- Supper provided.

Sockey awarded karate title



On Jan. 16, 2010, Rayden Sockey, center, was awarded the Double State Champion Title in the advanced 6-7 year old Kata/Kumite Division at the Annual Mississippi Karate Association Banquet held on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. Rayden, the son of Rod and Pandora Sockey of Carthage, is a student at the GracieSouth Jiu Jitsu/Kickboxing Academy in Flowood and the Tang Soo Do Karate Academy in Carthage.

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Saturday, May 1, 2010

Greenhill

5 p.m.-10 p.m.

All donations are
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In Memory

CYNTHIA ROSE

Services for Cynthia Rose, 51, were held on Sunday, February 21, 2010, at the John E. Stephens Chapel in Philadelphia. The Rev. John Stephens officiated.

John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Rose passed away Feb. 19 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and enjoyed sewing and cross stitching. She was employed with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry Bell Sr. and Juanita Isaac; brothers, Henry Bell Jr., George Bell and Richard Bell; sister, Linda Schein; and stepfather, Ted York.

Survivors include her son, Kyle Rose; sisters, Hazel Bell Willis, Barbara Ben and Louie Bell; her brother, Wendell Bell; and a host of relatives and friends.

ALFRED CHICKAWAY

Funeral services for Alfred Chickaway, 62, were held on Saturday, February 27, 2010, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Chickaway passed away Feb. 23 at his residence in Conehatta.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a Catholic. He enjoyed hunting, taking walks and spending time with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ross Collins Chickaway Sr.; a sister, Ives Chickaway Rhodes; & brothers, Alan Chickaway Sr., Ross Chickaway Jr., Gerard Chickaway, Ronnie Chickaway Sr., & Robbie Chickaway.

Survivors include his mother, Noleen Chickaway; a sister, Lynette Farmer; brothers, Troy Chickaway & Randall Chickaway, all of Conehatta; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

YUNA "JUNIOR" COTTON

Funeral services for Yuna "Junior" Cotton, 68, were held on Monday, March 8, 2010, from the residence of Elaine Isaac in the Crystal Ridge community in Louisville. The Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Choctaw Christian Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Cotton passed away on March 6 at Winston Medical Center.

He loved coaching baseball, fishing, hunting, taking walks, visiting family, making everyone laugh with all his jokes, and listening to music.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Cotton and Hattie Chapman; & two brothers, Jimmy Cotton & Cillo Cotton.

He is survived by seven sisters, Ora Mae Galvan, Elaine Isaac, Sara Cotton, Rosie Sam, all of Louisville, Aileen Thomas, Margaret Jefferson and Diane Ben, all of Laurel; five brothers, James Cotton, Willie Cotton both of Louisville, Christopher Thomas, Carmen Thomas, both of Laurel, and Clarence Thomas of Walnut Grove.

MAVIS DIXON COTTON

Funeral services for Mavis Dixon Cotton, 56, were held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, from the Crystal Ridge Facility Building. The Rev. Derrick Johnson officiated.

Burial was in the Choctaw Christian Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Cotton passed away March 6 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a homemaker. She graduated from Choctaw Adult Education in May 1982 & worked numerous jobs until she became disabled. She loved to crochet, do crossword puzzles, fish, garden, cook, & visit family & friends.

At an early age, she attended Mashulaville Mennonite Church. She faithfully attended Ellen Burr Baptist Church in Leesville, Louisiana under watchcare membership. Upon relocating to Louisville in 2008, she continued watchcare at Miller Chapel Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Nora Jim Dixon; husband, K.C. Cotton; daughter, Rosalynda Cotton; son, Paul Cotton; & two grandchildren.

Survivors include daugh-

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"GOD'S PERSPECTIVE & OURS"

"And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth." - **Colossians 3:2 (Amplified Bible)**

Everyone has their own perspective of what life should be like. However, God has His perspective of what your life supposed to be like also. The difference between His perspective and ours is, His is full of insights, concepts, ideas, wisdom, peace, power, and success. If you have never renewed your mind with the word of God you limit yourself with selfish, prideful and low thinking.

When you renew your mind with His word it will help you to think like He thinks and see things from His perspective. This will take limits off of your life and cause you to move in another direction with His perspective. So, set your mind and keep it set on what God has for you. As you do, you will find yourself with a sense of direction. Always remember, He wants the best for your life!

-Pastor Thomas Ben

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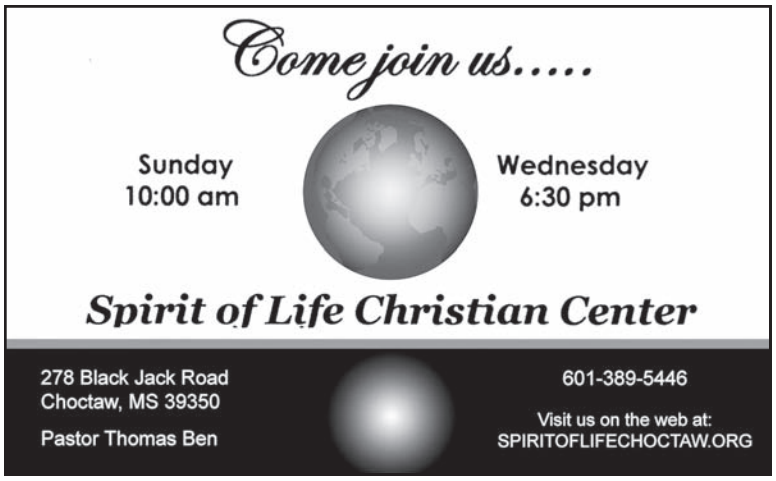
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ters, Judy Perez, Winnie Cotton & Theresa Dixon; son, Andrew Lee Cotton; companion, David Triplett; four step-daughters; a sister, Regina Hudson; 13 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

RUBY MCMILLAN-PINTO

Funeral services for Ruby McMillan-Pinto, 71, were held on Friday, March 12, 2010, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Pinto, of St. Charles, Missouri, passed away on March 7.

She was employed in packaging at Central Hardware & loved animals, gardening and watching her sports teams.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard Pinto; parents, James & Maggie McMillan; & a brother, Leo McMillan.

Survivors include her children, Jim Pinto & wife, Peggy; Renee Johnson & husband, Noah; Patricia Procter & husband, John; & Brian Pinto; seven grandchildren; a great-grandson; a brother, Clifton McMillan Sr. & wife, Mattie; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

STEPHEN KEITH MINGO

Funeral services for Stephen Keith Mingo, 24, were held on Friday, March 19, 2010, from 429 Industrial Road in Carthage. The Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in Mingo Cemetery in Preston. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Mingo passed away March 13 in Utah.

Mingo was a GED graduate & enjoyed working on the computer, playing pool & spending time with his sons, friends & family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Archie Mingo; a daughter, Taloa-Seeth Shaylynn Mingo; maternal grandmother, Catherine Wilson; paternal grandparents, Irene Mingo & Phillip Wayne Mingo Sr.

Survivors include two sons, Phillip Archie Rayshawn Mingo & Avery Blaine Mingo-Cesspooch of Roosevelt, Utah; mother & stepfather, Loretta Lynn Frazier & Odell (Joe) Frazier Jr. of Carthage; brother, Nikki Shay Mingo of Conehatta; grandfather, Clifton Lewis of Philadelphia; special friend, Drienna Cook of Fort Duchesne, Utah; stepsisters, Summer Thomas, Christina Denson, both of Conehatta, Sky Davenport of Pickens, & Arvena Charlie of Carthage; stepbrothers, Bryant Thomas of Carthage, Alajandro Frazier, Damien & Gauge Thomas, all of Conehatta; two nephews; two stepnephews; aunts, Charlotte Sam, Olivia Mingo, Rachel Cotton, & Cathleen Jordan, all of Philadelphia; uncles, Phillip Mingo Jr., Clifton Willis, Raymond Wilson Jr., Lance Wilson, all of Philadelphia, & Travis Wilson of Conehatta; & a host of relatives & friends.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DENEETRIA DEVAINE SCHROCK

(SNOOCH)

January 29, 1986 - March 30, 2008

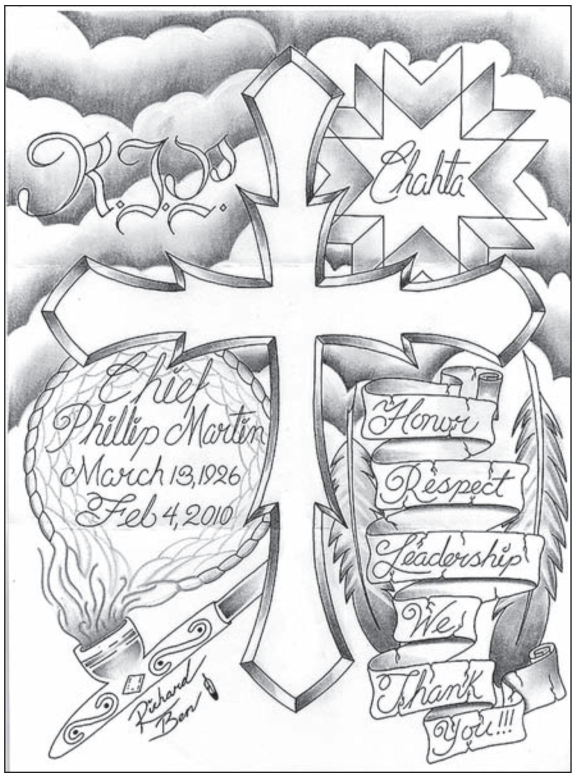
Baby "Snooch", another year has come by. On Jan. 29, you could have turned 24; in my heart, you did. I realize I see you in my inner memories, but it's so hard because it's just a memory. I want to hold you in my arms, against my heart. But I realize I can't. Instead, I hold your little boy you left me against my heart. He looks so much like you, Baby Snooch.

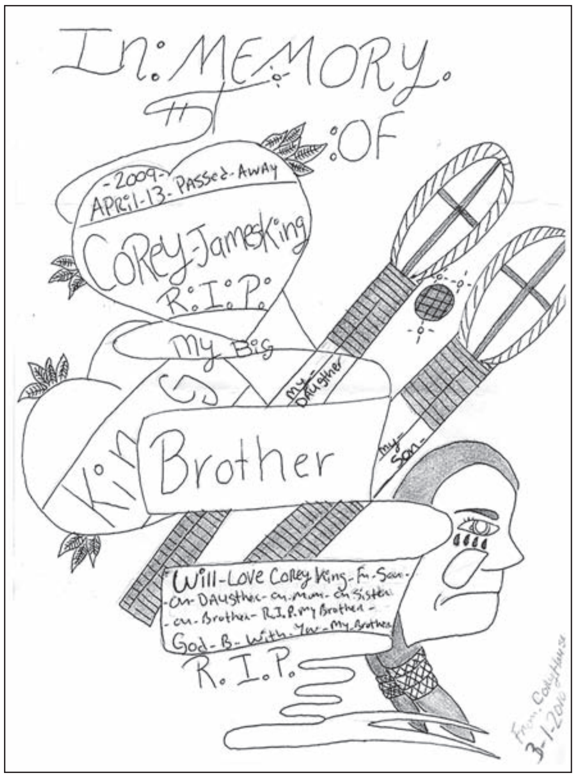
We all just miss you so much & still love you. You will never be forgotten & you are in our hearts always. Even your nieces, Ashton & Shykima, ask me about you, but I think they know & understand that you are in heaven. Even your precious little boy, Jr., knows you're in heaven. When we ask, "where's mama?", he'll say, "mama is in heaven." He also likes to say your favorite word, "whatever!" He also likes to say, "let's rock & roll, baby!"

We wish you were here with us to hear your boy say those words. I know you would be proud of him. He's a wonderful boy. We will never let Jr. forget you, we promise.

Snooch, your cousin & aunties all love you & miss you & they wish you were here too. Everybody misses you so much. We always take your little boy to your grave site to see you & he'll be talking to you. We will always love you & miss you very much.

-From your family





IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR LIL PRINCESS MISS AMBROSIA MERRAIN RHODES

April 8, 2005 - January 2, 2008

Baby girl, it's been two years since you've been gone, but it seems like yesterday when we held you & played with you. We miss hearing you say "I'm princess" & all the funny things you said. We still remember the hugs & kisses we gave to each other. We know that God had plans for you & took you to be with Him. We wish you were still here with us, but we know you're up there watching over us. We know when the time comes we'll be with each other again. Until then, lil princess & our precious baby girl, may you rest in peace. We miss you so much & love you dearly.

Love always,
Mommy, Daddy, Angelica Jade, & Cannon "Baby Jaze"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 24th Birthday to my son, Gary Henry, on April 3, with lots of love - Mom, Frank, Brittany, Daynon & Braylan.

Happy 12th Birthday to Bethany Willis on April 15, with lots of love from your Aunt, Uncle & cousins.

Happy Birthday to Brylee Willis on March 11, 2010, from Grandpa & Grandma Beasley Willis Sr. & Shannon R. Willis & sista Shaneisha R. Willis.

Happy Birthday to Tammy Wishork on March 7, 2010, from the Willis Family.

We wish a very Happy Birthday to Latin Willis on April 7, from Steph, Justin, Henry, & Mina. We miss you.

Happy Birthday to our mother, Beauty Willis, on April 8, 2010. We love & miss you. You're in a better place so we have comfort knowing you're with God. Love, Vandall Vaughn & family, Neal Vaughn, kids & grandkids, Priscilla Williams & family, Abbie Vaughn & family, & Merrill Vaughn & family.

Happy Birthday to Morgan Dale Jefferson, Little Merle & Meritza Henry, from Uncle Auburn Jefferson. I love yall.

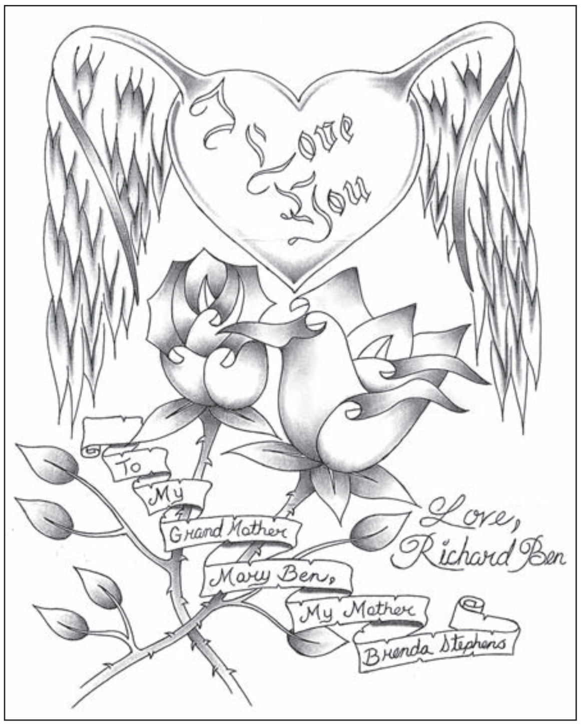
Happy Birthday to Bethany M. J. Willis on April 15. She turns 12 years old. With lots of love from Mom, Dad, your brothers, Maverick, John III, Rick, & your sisters Linda, Olivia & Melody! Also, Happy Birthday to Gary A. Henry on April 3, from Aunt Martha & your cousins!

Happy 25th Birthday to 'my husband' Arman D. Jefferson on April 15. Love ya baby, from your wife. Love you & miss you... Happy 5th Birthday to my baby boy Antone Duran Jefferson on April 12. Our bihead is growing up too fast. We love you always, from mommy & daddy... Happy Birthday to my brother Danny W. Steve on April 15. Love ya Bighead.

Happy Birthday to our daddy, Arman Duran, on April 15. Love from Melody, Bihead, PhatPhat, Dontay, & Keaton Dapree. We love you always.

Happy Belated 6th Birthday to our baby girl Melody Syrese Jefferson. Love from Mommy, Daddy & your brothers.

Happy Belated Birthdays to my nephews Zeylon Bryceton Clemons on March 20 & Keontray Keshawn Clemons on March 23, my niece Miss Anaeli Charice Clemons on March 5, my Grandma 'Ree' on March 7, my brother Brent Clemons on March 3, my Unk 'Brandon' on March 1, & Miss Shanitra Dixon on March 23. Happy Birthday fellas...see ya soon! Love always, from Marena Clemons. Oh yeah, to Trent in April...Happy Belated 21st Birthday to Crystal Clemons on Feb. 15!



Happy Belated Birthday to Jonathan 'Trey' Nickey on March 11. Have fun, don't overdo it. Love you, from Lynnita 'Nani' King.

Happy Belated Birthday on Feb. 23 to Jennifer 'Buck' Mingo, from Donavon McMillan & ABM crew. We appreciate you as a supervisor & a friend. May God Bless you... Happy Belated Birthday to Jennifer 'Buck' Mingo on Feb. 23, from Ezonne Hustito & family from Zuni, New Mexico.

Happy Belated Birthday to my father, Leran Jefferson Sr., on Feb. 17. Happy Belated Birthday Dad... Happy Birthday to my lil brother 'Foot' Javion Deshaun Jefferson on April 17... to my handsome lil guy 'Antone Duran', Happy 5th Birthday on April

....continued next page

PERSONAL REFLECTION

To my parents, Leran & Patty Jefferson:

"You gave me life to see the world. You pampered me when I was just a baby. You fed me, clothed me, fixed my first bottle, bathed me, kept me warm when I was cold, told me you loved me, taught me how to talk, walk, how to hold a bottle & a cup. You protected me from harm, was there for me when I needed you the most & gave me a shoulder to lean on. I was your infant & you took care of me. I was your son... your angel. I thank you, forever."

To Marcus Dewayne:

"You are my brother, no matter what. We played together, shared the same bed & cup together, made each other laugh & were there for each other. We used to cry together & say 'love you boy' & 'good night'. Still love you boy."

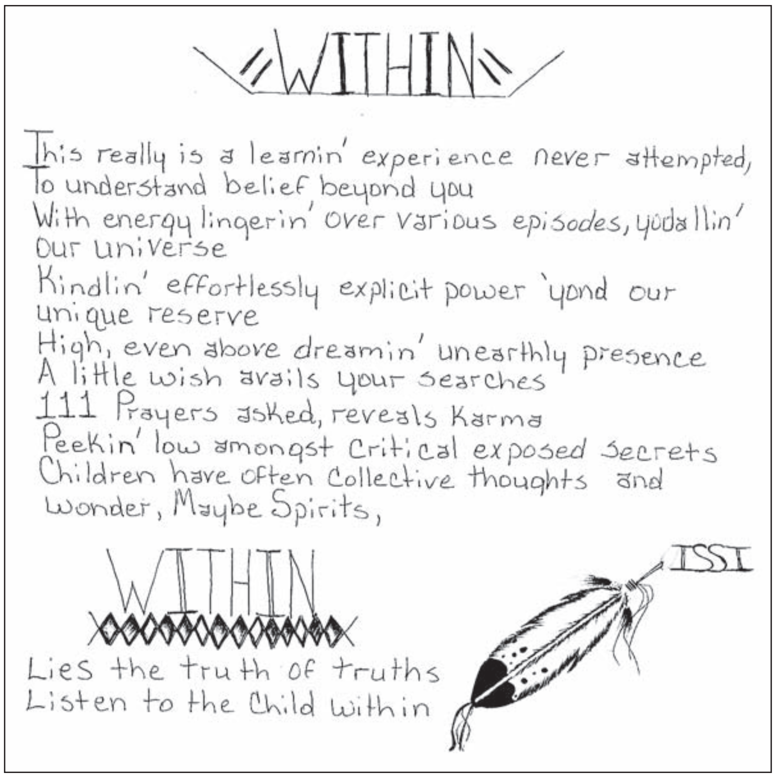
To Bera Ann:

"You showed me what love means. You waited for me, cooked for me, washed my clothes, kept the house clean. You held me, gave me a kiss & told me you loved me. You were there with me when we didn't have a house, car, money or a place to sleep. You gave me my first precious daughter & my first handsome son. You told me nothing mattered to you, just as long as you had me. You are my first wife & my last. Thank you & I'll never regret you."

To my babies - Bigeye, Bihead, Phat-Phat, Dontay & Keaton:

"I'm sorry I'm not there to play with you anymore, to give you baths, to say 'I love you' everyday, to hold you whenever you cry. I'm sorry I'm not there to lay with you when you fall asleep, when you open your eyes each morning, to hold you everyday. Keaton, I'm sorry I wasn't there when you were born. I'm sorry I wasn't there when you had your first diaper changed, to hear your first cry, see your first smile, fix your bottles or to hold you. I'm sorry. My pride & joy forever, Daddy loves ya'll."

"I know deep within my heart, I'm a great person (ya'll even know that). I give people respect, I'll make you laugh, I'm a carrying person. I love each of ya'll with all my heart & soul. For that, there's something I want ya'll to know & I'm not ashamed to admit it. Ya'll were right. I should have never touched the alcohol. Because alcohol got the best of me, I regret everything that I've ever done to you. I messed up my marriage, my relationships with my father, brother & everyone else that loved & cared about me. From the bottom of my heart, I'm sorry that I gave you heartache, hurt you, made you cry, made you wait. I'm sorry I picked my so-called friends over you & turned around on you. I'm truly sorry that I hurt you verbally, physically & emotionally. Most of all, I'm sorry I was abusive. I never meant to hurt you or make you suffer. I'm sorry. Now I ask each one of you with all my soul, please forgive me. Thank you. Love always & forever," - Arman D. Jefferson, "Chub"



WITHIN

This really is a learnin' experience never attempted,
To understand belief beyond you
With energy lingerin' over various episodes, yodallin'
Our universe
Kindlin' effortlessly explicit power 'yond our
unique reserve
High, even above dreamin' unearthly presence
A little wish avails your searches
111 Prayers asked, reveals Karma
Peekin' low amongst Critical exposed secrets
Children have often Collective thoughts and
wonder, Maybe Spirits,

WITHIN
Lies the truth of truths
Listen to the Child within

ISSI

12. Son, God loves you & will be with you forever. Love always, Arman Jefferson. God Bless.

Happy Belated Birthday on March 23 to the person I really respect & love - my mother Regina Shoemake - from your son, Jay! I'll be home soon!

Happy Birthday to Daddy's little girls on April 17 & 26, Stacey & Talaiha Tubby. Much love from your Daddy & family.

Happy 10th Birthday to our baby girl, Telinah K. Farve, on April 5, 2010. Love from Nakeema, Annisah, Momma & David.

Happy Birthday to Gloria 'Mom' Cotton on April 16, 2010. With love from David 'Boi', Letina & the girls in Ada, OK.

Happy Belated Birthday Daddy on Feb. 9. How old are you now? LOL! Love you always, from Trish, Day, Tosh, & Dano.

To my Papo Jackson on Feb. 9, Happy, Happy Belated Birthday! I love you forever Papo! - Nolynn.

Special birthday wish to our special sister & niece, Theresa Joe, on March 21. Happy Birthday with love from Lola, Day, Tosh, Trish, Dano, & Nolynn.

Happy 15th Birthday to Joshua Richards on April 7 & Happy Birthday to Jermica Tubby on April 14, from everyone who loves you.

Happy Belated Birthday to Alicia M. Tubby on Feb. 6, from Gurdy Farmer, Jr.

Happy Belated 4th Birthday to my son, Jayce Sam, on Feb. 28. With much love from your Dad, Justin Sam.

Happy 6th Birthday to Alyssa Keira Jimmie on April 17. Lots of love from family & friends.

Happy 21st Birthday to Justin Wesley on April 8. Have a good one! From your friends.

Happy 8th Birthday Blaise Clemons on April 1, with lots of love from Mom, Kan, Sage, Tee, Zylar, & family/friends.

Happy 6th Birthday to Colen Dixon on April 18. Lots of love from Mom & the kids.

Happy Birthday to Ida J. Sam on April 30, from Leann, Penguin, & the Joe Family... to Brandon Keith Farmer who will be 17 on April 27, from Mom, Dad, Kayla, Shorty, Adam Jr., & Aven. We love both of you very much!

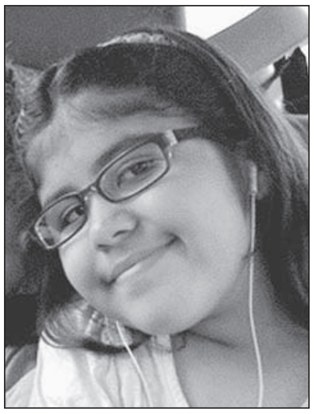
Happy Birthday to Shaboo on April 16, from you know who!

Happy Belated 16th Birthday to Craig Runnels on March 12. Love from your Mom, Jonathan, Eli, Spencer, Maggie, Mamo, Tata, one & only Aunt Rochelle, Uncles Jonah & Joey, & your cousins from BC.

Happy 3rd Birthday to our little princess, Aubree Cotton, on April 12. With much love from Mommy, Sissy, Daddy, aunts, uncles, Lena & Noah.

Happy Birthday to Roger Mayfield on April 4 & Bobbie Warkins on April 6. From your family, Warren, Jr, Lonie, Lynn, Anz, TJ, Chanz, & Dayne.

Happy Birthday to Lynn Parkerson on April 6! From your big brother Warren & the rest of the family, Mom, Dad, Anz, TJ, Chanz, & Dayne.

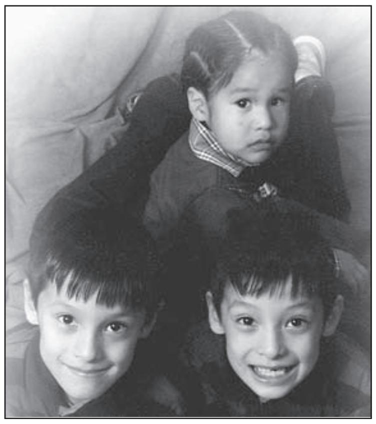


HAPPY BIRTHDAY CEREMONY ROSE!
We love you! From Mommy, Matthew, Autumn, Celes, Grandma, & Great-Grandma.

Happy 3rd Birthday to Tatum Brice Farmer on April 25. We love you Tatum! You brighten our days & bring bundles of joy to us with your enthusiasms for life. Loved by Mommy, Daddy, sis Kinleigh Brooke, cousin Jaliah, uncle Saiah, Alexis, Grandma Stell, Uncle X, Grandma Dora, Papo Butch, cousin Channa, Grandma Willie, cousins Brandy & Foy, Uncle Jo-Jo (Julius).

(RIGHT) *We wish a Happy 1st Birthday to our (Fatgirl) Azayleah Dixon on April 15, 2010, with lots of love from your Mom, Dad, big bro Sage, your cousins Nylaya, Daisy, Amerie, Buford, & Anakin, your aunts, uncles, both of your grandmas, & the rest of the family!... Happy Birthday to Alex Dixon on April 9, love from Carla, Fatgirl, Sage, Mom, Nang, Daisy, & the rest of the family!*

Happy Birthday to Dori A. Mingo.
Our baby is 14 years old! From Cynthia & Jimmy. She was so small, I can't believe she is a big baby.



Happy Belated Birthday to our little man Kameron who turned 4 on March 28! And Happy 9th Birthday to Jacob & Coby on April 28! We love you boys! From Mommy, Daddy Ken, Mamo, Le, Auntie Shanine & Trissy, Uncle Will & Nikko!

Pepsi-Cola
My Mom Plays for

ANGELICA JADE IS 9!
We wish a Happy Birthday to Miss Angelica Jade Rhodes who turns 9 years old on April 29, 2010! Jade, we love you so much & are very proud of you! Way to go on staying on the Honor Roll at NCES. Keep up the good job! Lots of hugs & kisses from Mommy, Daddy, Cannon Jaze, Tom, Yo, & the rest of the family.

"Dearer than our children, are the children of our children. Generation to generation; God gives us grandkids to keep us young at heart."

We wish a very Happy Birthday to our April grandchildren...**(LEFT)** Dylan Shawn Ben turned 11 on April 7. **(CENTER)** Renaysia Leigh Polk turned 14 on April 17. **(RIGHT)** And a very special 1st Birthday Wish to our little man Lucas Seth Allen on April 14. You each make life worth living and each day more precious than the day before. We love you all! From Grandma & James, Marsha, Aaron, Malakai, Baby Girl, & Mera. And to Lucas, Happy Birthday Son, from Da-Da!

Happy Belated Birthday to Vickie Steve on March 4, from your family & friends.

Happy Belated Birthday to "Guppy" Bill Farmer Jr. on March 12, from your family & friends.

Happy Belated 17th Birthday to Delia Kalsey Willis on March 13. Love from Mom, Dad, Hail, Jage, Sere, Yana, & the rest of your family & friends.

WELCOMES NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

Alan & Bertha Gingerich of Dunnegan, MO, are happy to announce the birth of Alayna Donn Gingerich, daughter of Arlan & Sarah Gingerich. She was born on Jan. 5, 2010, at 5:20 p.m. She weighed in at 5 lbs., 2 ozs. She made us first time grandparents & makes us smile with pride!

Alan & Bertha Gingerich are again happy to announce the birth of Kinley-Belle Lena Hill, daughter of Berthetta & Justin Hill of Olatha, KS. She was born on Jan. 21, 2010, at 4:40 a.m. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 11 ozs., & measured 20.5 inches long. She makes the second granddaughter in two weeks & makes us smile with pride!

Alayna Donn Gingerich

Kinley-Belle Lena Hill

Happy Belated 7th Anniversary to our Daddy & Mommy on March 1, from your kids - Aylissa, Layla & Shelton Jim.

Congratulations to Ashton Gade Hoshonti Hopakachi Sockey for placing First Alternate and Best Fashion in the Standing Pine Sweetheart Pageant. Good job Bebe. We're proud of you & we love you. From Mom, Dean, the kids, & Grandma's bunch too. We love you.

Happy Belated Valentine's Day to my wife, Lillie R. Shoemake. I love you & miss you. From your husband, Jay Shoemake... Also, Happy Belated Valentine's Day to Vera Jefferson & the kids, Phat-Phat, Melody, Dontay, Antone, & Keaton. Miss ya'll - Jay S.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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APRIL 2010

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To my husband, Adam Joe Sr. - Happy 13th Anniversary Pretty! I love you & have many more years with you! From your wife, Patricia.

CONGRATULATIONS!

On Jan. 4, 2010, Dayanna Jackson left for six weeks of training at Artesia, NM, with a test every week & training everyday. She graduated with a certificate on Feb. 18. We are very proud of our daughter, baby sister & auntie. We missed you very much & could not be more prouder! Thank you Day & congratulations! Hugs & kisses, from Daddy, Momma, Dano, Tosh, Trish, & Nolynn.

Your marriage is inspiring, you've shown us that life's precious years don't have to be "retiring."

Love & marriage has been a long & difficult road. Faith has been your carriage, God had lightened your load.

Together you have progressed to your fortieth year, with the words of God whispering in your ear.

Your one life together has you both untied, but the joys to come have just been sighted.

We love you both for being young at heart & making an oath never to depart.

You belong side by side, your passion so strong with nothing to hide.

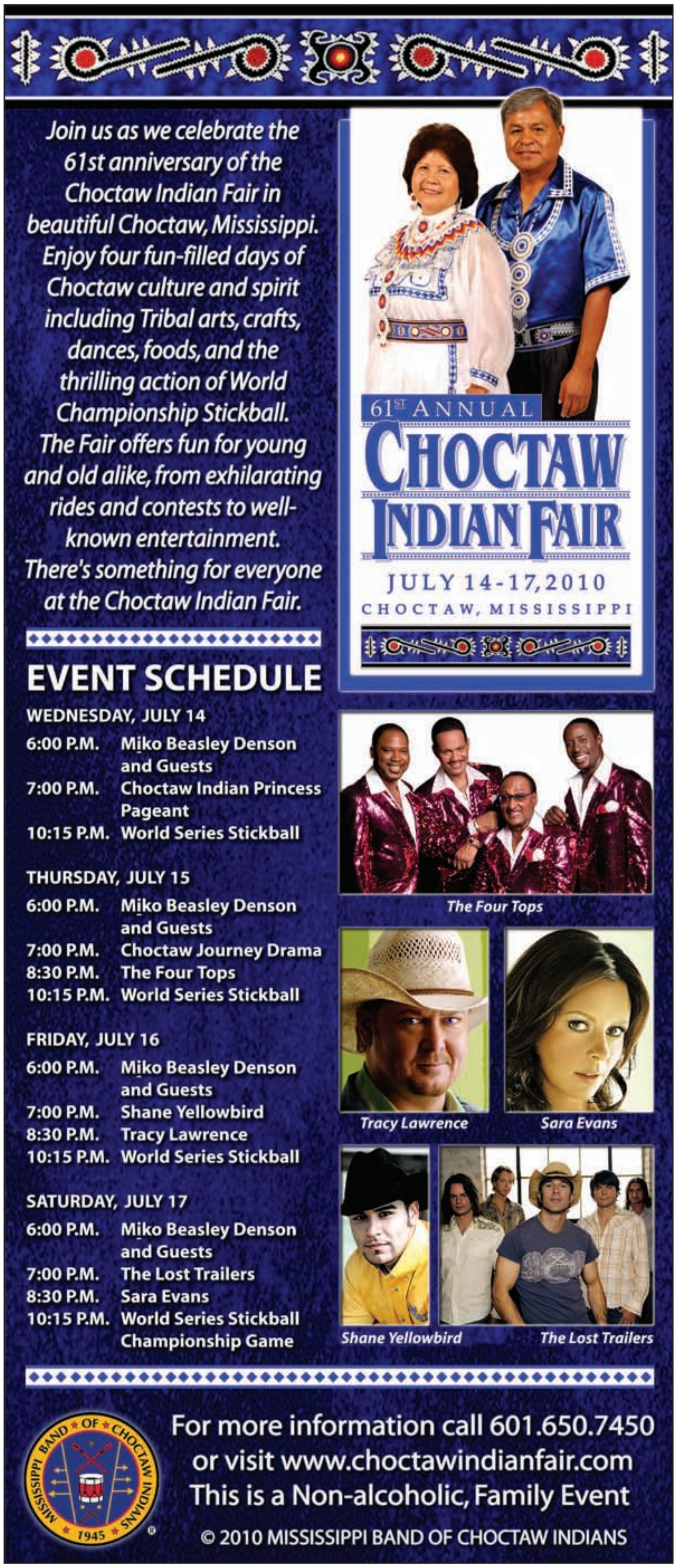
God Bless you two, Mom/Mamo & Dad/Papo. Happy 40th Anniversary with many more to come! We love you both always - from your children - Trish, Tosh, Dano, Day - & your granddaughter, Nolynn.

Happy 40th Anniversary to our wonderful parents, Danny & Lola Jackson, on March 18. With kisses from Dano, Day, Tosh, & Trish... Nolynn Bell wishes her Papo & Mamo Jackson a big, Happy Anniversary on March 18. "I love ya'll!"

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 5 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 MAY 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS



Join us as we celebrate the 61st anniversary of the Choctaw Indian Fair in beautiful Choctaw, Mississippi. Enjoy four fun-filled days of Choctaw culture and spirit including Tribal arts, crafts, dances, foods, and the thrilling action of World Championship Stickball. The Fair offers fun for young and old alike, from exhilarating rides and contests to well-known entertainment. There's something for everyone at the Choctaw Indian Fair.

61ST ANNUAL CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR
JULY 14-17, 2010
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

EVENT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14
6:00 P.M. Mi̲ko Beasley Denson and Guests
7:00 P.M. Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant
10:15 P.M. World Series Stickball

THURSDAY, JULY 15
6:00 P.M. Mi̲ko Beasley Denson and Guests
7:00 P.M. Choctaw Journey Drama
8:30 P.M. The Four Tops
10:15 P.M. World Series Stickball

FRIDAY, JULY 16
6:00 P.M. Mi̲ko Beasley Denson and Guests
7:00 P.M. Shane Yellowbird
8:30 P.M. Tracy Lawrence
10:15 P.M. World Series Stickball

SATURDAY, JULY 17
6:00 P.M. Mi̲ko Beasley Denson and Guests
7:00 P.M. The Lost Trailers
8:30 P.M. Sara Evans
10:15 P.M. World Series Stickball Championship Game

The Four Tops
Tracy Lawrence
Sara Evans
Shane Yellowbird
The Lost Trailers

For more information call 601.650.7450
or visit www.choctawindianfair.com
This is a Non-alcoholic, Family Event

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CCHS graduation set for May 25

Hillary Ashton Allen, Valedictorian

Ty Craig Isaac, Salutatorian

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) will host graduation ceremonies on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw. Guest speaker will be 1964 Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills.

Hillary Ashton Allen, with a GPA of 4.11, has been selected as valedictorian. Ty Craig Isaac, with a GPA of 4.0, has been named salutatorian.

Allen, daughter of Michael and Sally Allen of the Pearl River community, has been a student at CCHS for four years and has earned many awards and honors. She has been a Mi̲ko's and Principal's list honor student throughout her four years at CCHS.

Allen participated in the Beta and Pride clubs and received awards for English IV, Beta, and Family Dynamics. She was selected to participate in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leaders Conference. Allen was also selected as a Mississippi Scholar. Her plans for the fall are to attend Meridian Community College and study psychiatry.

Isaac, son of Ralph and Penny Isaac of the Standing Pine community, served as a member of the Beta and FBLA clubs. As a senior, he was a member of the CCHS football team.

Isaac has been a Mi̲ko's and Principal's list honor student throughout his four years at CCHS. He received awards for U.S. History and Human Anatomy & Physiology. He was also selected as a Mississippi Scholar. In the fall, Isaac plans to attend Meridian Community College and begin his studies for a degree in polymer science.

When the name of guest

...see GRADUATES, pg. 6

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH
"MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE!"

Commemorating child abuse awareness

On April 14, the Department of Family and Community Services, Choctaw Children & Family Services Program and the Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center hosted activities commemorating April as National Child Abuse Awareness Month. Participants from area programs and school groups took part in a child abuse prevention pledge walk from the Pearl River Amphitheater entertainment trailer to the Choctaw Social Service parking lot. Program booths and activities were set up at the Pearl River softball field. This year's theme was "Choctaw Children First." Following presentations, blue balloons were released in remembrance of victims of child abuse.

FROM THE OFFICE OF
MI̱KO
BEASLEY
DENSON
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
1945

UPDATE ON TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

Pearl River Resort

You don't hear many businesses talking about success these days. We are. The "Great Recession" that started in September of 2007 brought with it double-digit unemployment rates, the collapse of banks, a melt down on Wall Street, widespread bankruptcies and foreclosures and the toughest times families and businesses have seen since the 1930s. Now, after unprecedented federal spending and bailouts designed to stimulate the economy, there are signs that this recession may be over and America's economy is beginning to pick up speed. Jobs are being created and unemployment rates are dropping. Consumer confidence and spending are up. Even though there was no government bail out for our Tribe, visitors are returning to our Resort in increasing numbers and we are glad to see them.

Although the nation's economy is not yet out of the woods and we will be feeling the effects for months to come, I can say without hesitation that the way we have navigated through these rough times has been a success.

Before the bad times were in full bloom, we had already begun streamlining our operations. We devised and implemented a strategic plan to turn the Golden Moon around and it has succeeded. We stemmed the losses and brought the capacity at our casinos in line with the market we serve. They were tough decisions to make at the time, but by making them, we were able to get ahead of the approaching storm and have some shelter when it hit. The plan's combination of strict cost controls and a new marketing strategy served us well. Revenues and profits are exceeding those of this time last year. The Tribe owes a debt of gratitude to Resort leadership and management who acted swiftly, decisively, and with confidence to prepare us. As I have said from the start, Pearl River Resort is going to emerge from these tough times a more efficient and profitable organization. I have never been more certain of that than I am today.

However, foresight and decisive action by leadership were only part of this success. Also essential to this rebound were our Resort Associates who carried the weight and went the extra mile. They succeeded in maintaining the level of customer service our patrons expect, and by doing so have ensured they return. New Year's Eve and President's Day Weekend were huge successes because of their hard work.

THE 8(A) S

A while back, we created a new board for all of the Tribal 8(a) programs to provide competent management and oversight by Tribal members. The new board has been hard at work making sure these businesses are sound and positioned to bring revenue and employment to the Tribe in a way that is efficient and sustainable.

AGT is actively working towards new ventures that could usher in a new age of prosperity for the company and increase opportunities for Tribal members to gain skilled employment. The new board has guided a company that suffered in past years and has put it in a position to exceed expectations.

IKBI is turning around. Through cost cutting measures and closer management of existing projects, the company is likely to have a positive year. The board took tough but necessary steps to protect the interests of the Tribe and the company and they are working. We are hopeful that IKBI will become profitable and be successful in securing new contracts so that we can rehire tribal members and keep moving forward.

IKHANA has obtained 8(a) status and is now eligible to receive federal sole source awards. The management of the company has expanded its scope and is looking at other opportunities that could bring more money and employment to the Reservation.

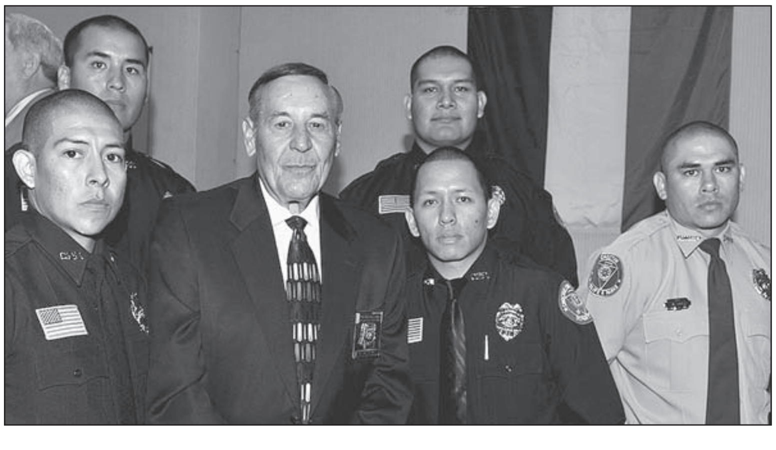
All of these companies have been working through these difficult times. With an economic rebound imminent, I believe are turning the corner and will be able to continue to generate additional opportunities to employ and support Tribal members.

NEW CHOCTAW POLICE OFFICERS

I want to congratulate the five Tribal members who recently graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy, Shaun Jimmie, Ira Ben, Brandon Fireplace, and Dwight McMillan. The Choctaw Police Department will be a stronger unit with these men joining their ranks and I commend them for choosing to serve and protect our community.

Beasley Denson

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko



Graduates pose with Charlie Alexander, retiring Special Projects Director of MLEOTA in Pearl, Miss., on March 25. Front row, from left, are Dwight McMillan, Charlie Alexander, Brandon Fireplace, Ira Ben; back row, Shaun Jimmie and Jordan York.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... *Communications Officer*
Brian C. Willis .... *Communications Editor*
Kathie Henry .... *Communications Assistant*
Bradley Isaac .... *Communications Assistant*
Stephanie Farmer .... *Communications Assistant*

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, MAY 7, AT 12 NOON.

Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

submitted by Norma Bacon,
Executive Secretary

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Regular Meeting,
February 18, 2010

Resolution CHO 10-051, approving a Tribal Development Loan to Choctaw Construction Group, Inc., was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-052(B), granting right-of-way temporary easement and accepting a fair market value offer from the Mississippi Transportation Commission, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-053, accepting a grant from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency for the Choctaw Hazard Mitigation Planning, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-054, authorizing Choctaw Tribal Court to apply for funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Tribal JADG Program, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-055, accepting 51.75 acres of land in Neshoba County, Mississippi, deeded to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians by the State of Mississippi, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-056, accepting 1.14 acres of land in Winston County, Mississippi, deeded to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians by the State of Mississippi, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-057(B), granting waterline easement to Central Water Association, Inc., in the Bogue Chitto Community, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-058(B), approving increase in blood degree and name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-059(B), approving Tribal enrollments, was adopted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Regular Meeting,
April 13, 2010

Ordinance No. 66 C, changing the name of Choctaw Construction Group, Inc., to Chahta Holding Group, Inc., and for other purposes, was enacted 15 in favor, 1 opposed, o abstaining.

Ordinance No. 16-PPPP, amending Title XV of the Tribal Code, was enacted 12 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Ordinance No. 16-QQQQ, enacting Title XXXII of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was enacted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Ordinance No. 71, granting charter to First American Printing & Direct Mail, Inc., was enacted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-060, designating Regions Bank as a depository of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-061, approving the award of a construction contract to IKBI, Inc., was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-062, contracting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) under P.L. 93-638 for the American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) Roadway Improvement Funds for the construction of improvements to BIA Route 0228 (AKA Lewis Road or Thompson Bell Road) in the Pearl River Community, and to allow sole source the expenditure of these ARRA funds to IKBI, Inc., a Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians owned company, and to amend the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Procurement Policy for P.L. 93-638 BIA Contract CTS78T9800D for construction of improvements to BIA Route 0228 (AKA Lewis Road or Thompson Bell Road) in the Pearl River Community to allow the sole source procurement of construction activities to IKBI, Inc., was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-063, waiving the regulatory requirement for a monetary value appraisal for rights-of-way and easements required

see RESOLUTIONS, pg. 5

THE INTERNET GAMING DEBATE

Choctaw fights to protect Indian Country opportunities at NCAI, USET & NIGA

From left, Mi̱ko Denson, Parkerson and Mohegan Chairwoman Lynn Malerba worked with the various Tribal representatives in attendance to create a coalition to defeat the resolution.

In April, the 2010 National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Trade Show and Convention was held in San Diego, California. NIGA brings together more than 180 Tribes from around the country who have decided to pursue economic development and cultural preservation through Indian gaming.

The gathering provides a forum for the discussion of the latest gaming and non-gaming issues facing Indian Country.

During this year's convention, internet gaming was the hotly debated topic. Congress is considering legislation that would legalize it and create a licensing and regulatory regime nationwide. Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, has introduced a bill that would permit states to engage in most types of internet gaming.

During last year's National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Convention in Palm Springs, California, some California Tribes advanced a resolution, suggesting NCAI go on the record against the bill. Mi̱ko Denson preferred a more deliberative approach.

"It is premature to oppose or support any piece of legislation until there is better understanding of how it will affect my Tribe, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the rest of Indian Country," Denson said.

Denson, Secretary Treasurer Lola Parkerson and Lenor Scheffler succeeded in getting the NCAI resolution tabled.

During the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) conference later in 2009, Denson proposed a resolu-

.........see GAMING, pg. 4

NEWS FROM THE Pearl River Resort

Choctaw, MS

GENERALLY SPEAKING

by General Paul Harvey

In the very near future you will be hearing more about a new and dynamic program named "*Okla Achafa*," which in Choctaw means "one people." The thrust of *Okla Achafa* is teamwork and working together.

We, as a team, have worked through the current economic recession. As we look to the future, strong leadership is vital to continued success of Pearl River Resort (PRR). To that end, in concert with Mi̱ko Beasley Denson's clear and strong leadership, we have positioned the Resort as one of the most viable gaming operations in the United States and that means greater prosperity for Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI).

The Mi̱ko's vision of improving financial conditions for the MBCI is evident by the strong beginning of the New Year. Our weekend head counts are starting to increase and the gaming numbers are showing a significant improvement. Also, our year-to-date slot machine play is up from this time last year. That coupled with the dramatic reduction of expenses means improving over-all profits. Furthermore, this year's table games win has also improved compared to the same time last year and non-gaming revenue (hotels, restaurants and retail) has increased by nearly five percent.

Since October, PRRs profits have increased by nearly 41 percent and the margins are continuing to show steady improvement, which is a strong indicator the economy is improving. New Year's Eve was a tremendous success and President's Day Weekend had one of the highest single-day, positive performance figures that we have seen in more than a year.

In addition to the New Year's exceptional start, comes the declaration by many financial experts that the economy is improving. Even though Mississippi's economy historically lags behind the rest of the country, it is beginning to show positive signs of recovery.

If we continue to work hard and support the leadership of Mi̱ko Denson, we will be successful in the future. To that end, I am very proud of each and everyone at PRR and your dedication to what we all do day in and day out. Thank you for your contribution and great work. *Okla Achafa*, together we will continue to prosper.

CHOCTAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

HEALTH TIP

Buy organic for your kid's sake (and yours)!

The National Research Council states that data strongly suggests exposure to neurotoxic compounds at levels believed to be safe for adults would result in permanent loss of brain function if it occurred during the prenatal or early childhood period of brain development.

The National Academy of Sciences says that infants are likely to be 10 times more sensitive to any single pesticide than an adult. Furthermore, additive effects of pesticides consumed in combination are not considered when regulating pesticides; nor are multiple routes of exposure (through food, water, and household products).

The additive affect of simultaneous exposure to multiple pesticides presents a real-world risk to infants and children.

Source: EVERLASTING HEALTH,
Humanity's Guide to Understanding,
Avoiding, and Reversing Disease
by Robert Bernardini, MS, Foreword by
David J. Getoff, CCN, CTN, FAAIM

Mouthguards for stickball

For those who wish to have mouthguards made for the 2010 stickball season, the Pearl River and Conehatta Dental Clinics will be fabricating mouthguards on the following days for the following communities:

Conehatta Dental Clinic - May 12, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. for the Conehatta and Standing Pine Communities;

Choctaw Health Department Dental Clinic - May 14, from 7:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. for the Pearl River, Bogue Chitto, Red Water, and Tucker communities.

If you have questions, please call the Choctaw Health Department at 601.389.6202.

GAMING .... continued from page three

tion to study the impact internet gaming would have on Tribes and also insisted USET engage Chairman Frank to ensure the existing rights of the Mississippi Band and Indian Country are protected.

Denson worked closely with the leaders of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut and the Oneida Tribe of New York to get the resolution passed. He then met with Chairman Frank to make sure that any legislation considered by Congress protects the rights of Tribes, whether they decide to pursue internet gaming or not.

Earlier this year, Mi̱ko Denson joined Lynn Malerba, the Tribal Council Chairwoman of the Mohegan Tribe, in writing to USET President Brian Patterson detailing the position that the two Tribes would also deliver at the NIGA convention. While both Tribal leaders reserved the right to oppose any legislation that does not protect the rights of Tribes, Denson and Malerba expressed their opposition to efforts to get all of Indian Country, whether through NIGA or NCAI, on the record in opposition to the legislation pending in Congress because of the potential benefits internet gaming may provide.

During the NIGA convention, some Tribes again offered a resolution urging members to oppose the internet gaming bill, arguing that it poses a potential threat to existing Tribal gaming operations.

Mi̱ko Denson, Secretary Treasurer Parkerson and Chairwoman Malerba made their argument again, this time before the members of NIGA. They pointed out that blocking the bill could be beneficial to heavily populated states like California at the expense of less populated states like Mississippi and Connecticut.

Once all the arguments had been made, Denson, Parkerson and Malerba worked with the various Tribal representatives in attendance to create a coalition who would stand with them. When the votes were counted, the coalition prevailed 27 to 6 and the resolution was tabled pending fur-

RESOLUTIONS

.... continued from page three

for construction activities associated with roadway improvements to BIA Route 0228 (AKA Lewis Road or Thompson Bell Road), was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-064, amending the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Procurement Policy for P.L. 93-638 BIA Contract CTS78T9800A for various roadway safety projects to allow the sole source procurement of construction activities from IKBI, Inc., was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-065, authorizing the purchase of 42.59 acres in Winston County, Mississippi, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-066(B), amending ***Resolution CHO 09-085(B)*** and to accept a new legal description for a permanent, right-of-way easement in the Tucker Community and to accept a fair market value offer from the Mississippi Transportation Commission, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-067, approving the 2010 Choctaw Community Fund Budget, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-068, placing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in membership with the National Congress of American Indians, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-069, affirming the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to proclaim April as Child Abuse Awareness Month on Choctaw Reservation, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-070, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to accept grant funds from Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Recreational Trails Program, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-071, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to accept funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant provided by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-072, authorizing the Choctaw Tribal Schools to apply for grant funding under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distance Learning and Telecommunications Program, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-073, authorizing Choctaw Tribal Schools to apply for grant funding under the Department of Education Indian Education Professional Development Program, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-074, applying for Department of Justice grants through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Project, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-075, approving the transfer of certain industrial properties to the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-076(B), authorizing the approval of business leases and memoranda of agreement between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians d/b/a Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise and various tenants, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-077(B), approving increase in blood degree for previously enrolled Tribal members, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-078(B), approving Tribal enrollments, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-079, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Cultural Preservation Programs to apply for the Social Economic Development Strategies Grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Native Americans, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-080, applying for membership in the East Central Trauma Care Region, Inc., of the Mississippi Trauma Care System allowing Choctaw Health Center to provide Level IV Trauma Care, was approved 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION NOTICE

This is a reminder to all eligible Tribal members that even though a resolution approving the July 2010 has not been approved by Mi̱ko and the Tribal Council, all Tribal members can begin the process of changing your address or any custody of the minors. Please provide us with legal documents for changing the **BY'S**.

If the person is deceased and was the **BY** on the minor's check or the custody has changed since December, you need to make changes before June 2010.

If you were married after December 2009, you need to provide us with your Social Security Card with your new last name. For any 18 year old changes please provide us your birth date document.

Any child support documents, please check with legal services. (Their deadline is different from Tribal Distribution). All court orders, please check with Tribal Court. We will keep you posted once the distribution is approved. It is recommended that you pick up your check on the day of distribution to prevent delays receiving your check through the mail.

For more information, contact Earlie Williams at 601.650.1521 or email ewilliams@choctaw.org, Cindy John at 601.650.1696 or email cjohn@choctaw.org. Mailing address is: Tribal Distribution Office, P.O. Box 6090 Choctaw Branch, Choctaw, MS 39350. Or you can fax them at 601.650.1625.

Cherokee official visits Tribe

Dr. Michael N. Duvall

CHOCTAW, Miss. - Dr. Michael N. "Mickey" Duvall, director of economic development for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, visited the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on Wednesday, March 31, 2010. He spoke with officials from MBCI Economic Development, Pearl River Resort and the Tribal enterprises to gain a better understanding of the Tribe's diverse business endeavors.

Duvall also toured the facilities at the Choctaw TechParc and had lunch at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, where he spoke to Tribal officials about projects that the Eastern Band of Cherokees were planning or completing. Afterwards, Duvall went on a tour of Pearl River Resort.

Dr. Duvall was highly impressed with the Tribe's business portfolio, and he hoped that the two tribes could continue building upon their wonderful relationship.

GRADUATES

continued from page one

speaker Billy Mills is mentioned, one thinks of the Olympic gold medal winner. But the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Mills is much more than that. His tremendous victory in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games has made him a symbol of pride and determination all across Indian country.

Mills' upbringing was humble at best, born on the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) reservation on June 30, 1938. Orphaned at age 12, he found sports to be an outlet amid the life of poverty that surrounded him.

Mills found running to be a natural talent as it helped him earn track records in high school and at the Haskell Institute. His running success earned him a scholarship to the University of Kansas.

At Kansas, Mills was named NCAA All-America Cross Country runner three times and helped his track mates to win the 1959 and 1960 Outdoor National Championships. Upon graduating Kansas with a B.S. in physical education, Mills enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and later was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. It was during this time in the Reserves that he began serious training to qualify for the U.S. Olympic track team, which he did in the 10,000 meters and marathon.

All eyes for the 10,000 meter race was not on Mills, but on the expected duel between favorites Ron Clark of Australia and Mohammad Gammoudi of Tunisia. Clark led most of the way, using his proven method of surging on each lap, but the seemingly overmatched Mills kept close. Clark and Gammoudi made most of the pre-race matchup, battling on the final lap, but Mills sped by both men and claimed the gold and a permanent mark in Olympic history.

In 1976, Mills received numerous awards for his sterling running career.

Inductions were made in the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame, U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, the National Distance Running Hall of Fame, the Kansas Hall of Fame, the San Diego Hall of Fame, and the National High School Hall of Fame.

Mills also served on the Presidents Council of Fitness and Sports and was a 1993 recipient of the Distinguished Service Citation from the University of Kansas Alumni Association.

Currently, Mills serves as a spokesman and advocate for Native American youths, a true role model for all.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will have the opportunity to see and hear a man who has faced challenges and overcome, and can be truly called a Native and American hero.

MSDH Volunteers in Preparedness Training
June 30, 2010

Volunteers In Preparedness: Are registered to the Mississippi State Department Volunteers Registry. Volunteers are comprised of pre-credentialed healthcare volunteers and pre-registered non-medical volunteers trained to provide a coordinated response to emergencies to support the established public health and emergency response system. More information can be found at: **http://volunteer.msdh.state.ms.us**

Course Length: (4 Hour Course) 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Fees: None

Course Contents: Volunteers in Preparedness training

Who Should Attend: nurses, dentists, pharmacist, veterinarians, social workers, mental health professionals, emergency medical technicians, and other allied healthcare professionals; and non-medical staff such as: translators, data entry clerks, clergy, administrators, ham radio operators, bus drivers, communications specialists, and IT personnel.

Benefits to You: The ability to respond during a disaster or emergency response and to gain a sense of pride through community services.

Instructor(s): ***Mississippi Department of Health***

Location: ***Choctaw Fire Department, Hwy 16 West Choctaw MS 39350***

Contact: For questions or more information, contact ***Denise John, 601-389-6251 or Becky Champion 601-389-6368***

Register: *Registration forms are available at the Choctaw Health Department OR you can register via email at djohnrn@choctaw.org. OR fax a filled out bottom portion of this flyer to fax number 601-389-6281. Limited seating. Only first 30 participants will be able to participate.*

Sorry, No CEU's

Refreshments provided by Choctaw Health Department

REGISTRATION FORM

Organization:______________________________

Job Title:______________________________

Last Name:______________________________

First Name:_____________________ MI:______

Street Address:______________________________

City:________________________ State:______

County:______________________________

Email Address:______________________________

Phone:______________________________

Fax:______________________________

Registration can be faxed to 601.389.6281
or e-mailed to djohnrn@choctaw.org
RSVP BY JUNE 23, 2010

Marty Stuart visits Pearl River community

On April 14, Marty Stuart made a visit to the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Choctaw. His first stop was at the Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian where Martha Ferguson gave him a guided tour of the broad collection of Choctaw artifacts and handmade crafts.

The second part of his visit was coordinated by Dorothy Wilson, Tucker Community representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council. During the 2009 Choctaw Indian Fair, Wilson and the Chata Hilha social dance group joined Stuart on stage during his performance.

During this reunion, she arranged for the same dance group to meet Stuart at Lake Pushmataha and pose for photographs, using the beautiful natural setting of the lake as their background.

Stuart, well known for his

..........continued next page

Marty Stuart was given a guided tour of the Choctaw Museum by Martha Ferguson and viewed the collection of baskets on display.

Mi̱ko Denson visits RWES

Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson recently visited students at Red Water Elementary School after being invited by students he befriended during his 2007 campaign effort.

Student Sidney Billy invited Denson to visit the school and have lunch with the students on Thursday, April 15 while student Alexis King led the tour guides.

Students interacted with Denson and found out his responsibilities and duties of being Mi̱ko of the tribe.

““Thank you for the invitation to visit. Red Water Elementary is a great school and you would be hard pressed to find one it’s equal anywhere in Mississippi,” said Denson.

Denson, along with several members of the tribal administration and Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, toured several classrooms.

During a fourth grade classroom visit, Denson stressed the importance of education and how it will impact their future.

“You have the finest school, the best teachers and the leadership to get you where you want to go. Remember, it’s important that you learn because it’ll carry you in your future. I was interested in education when I was your age and to be here at age 60 and to know as much as I do comes from education,” said Denson.

Students Billy and King offered their thanks to Denson for his visit.

“I like to thank you for coming to Red Water,” said Billy.

“Thank you for building this school and giving us this new stuff so each of us can learn,” added King.

The 53,000 square foot school, opened in the fall of 2009 in the Red Water community near Carthage, has 10 classrooms that serve pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. It includes a full-size gymnasium, cafeteria, kitchen facilities, computer lab, media center, art room, and a music room.

It also includes a basketball court, playground areas, combination football, baseball, and soccer field, and an amphitheater.

The building design incorporates a storm shelter in the corridors of the classroom wings. A geothermal High-Voltage Alternating Current system is utilized for the building to reduce fuel consumption.

EVERYONE'S READING WITH ARTHUR!

Pictured from left are Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, students Kristen Josh, Sharissa Jefferson, Sidney Billy, Kaleb Solomon, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, students Sammie Wilson, Alexis King, Aaleyiah Willis, and RWES Principal Bobby Boone.

passion of music, history and art, plans to feature the photographs in a traveling art exhibit currently touring the nation.

A native of Philadelphia, Miss., Stuart enjoys fame in the country music industry and is a long-time friend of the Tribe. We welcome his visits anytime he has an opportunity to come out and see us.

Stuart took several photographs of the Chata Hilha social dance group and several photographs of the children at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw.

Title I Parent Advisory Board meets

The Title I Parent Advisory Board welcomed a new board member to its April meeting. Tina Scott will represent the Standing Pine community. Ms. Scott, the mother of two children, is very actively involved in the Standing Pine Elementary School and in her community. She is employed with Family and Community Services.

Seated from left are Pandora Sockey, Darlene Willis, Ray Willis, Tina Scott; standing, Veronica Thomas, Connie Deon, Darian Willis, Allen Meely, Denise John, John Smith, Sharron Thompson, & Tim Comby.

Fifteen board members and five guests enjoyed the program presented by Linda Dick, Conehatta Elementary School Principal, and Jill Byers representing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi.

Dalton Henry, Education Services Officer, gave a Choctaw Tribal School report and answered board member questions.

An appreciation luncheon will be held May 19. Special guests for the meeting will be the 2010 Choctaw Tribal School Parents of the Year.

For additional information or questions, contact William F. Bell, Title I Coordinator, or Dianne Johnston, Title I Parent Center Coordinator.

NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

CPP staff member Priscilla Williams treated the group with a fun lesson identifying colors & numbers in the Choctaw language.

FACE Program tours Institute of Chahta Immi

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Family and Child Education (FACE) Program visited the Institute of Chahta Immi (ICI) on Wednesday March 10, 2010. The group, made up of children, parents, and the FACE program staff was provided information on the types of services that are provided at ICI for tribal members.

Mr. Shawi made his appearance at the institute & participated in the activities with the children.

Members of the FACE Program visited the Institute of Chahta Immi (ICI) on March 10 & were provided information on types of services that are provided at ICI.

CPP staff meet for a three day workshop to get ready for an exciting summer

Along the week of March 15th, the Cultural Preservation Program employees gathered at the Institute of Chahta Immi for a three day workshop to prepare for the upcoming months. One of the biggest items the CPP staff covered during the workshop was the Nanih Waiya play, a production that the program has been tasked to produce for this year's 61st annual Choctaw Indian Fair. Also discussed at the workshop were plans for a Choctaw Village, a unique interactive cultural activity that will be presented by CPP members at this year's fair.

MBCI/CPP Hosts ECHO Quarterly Meeting

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Cultural Preservation Program hosted the annual Education through Cultural Heritage Organizations (ECHO) quarterly meeting on March 8-11 in Washington, DC.

Leaders of the six ECHO partners (Alaska Native Heritage Center, Bishop Museum, Inupiat Heritage

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Round comb making was part of the 3-day workshop. CPP staff, from left, Phyllis McMillan, Diana Ben & Trudy Jimmie participate in the beading activity.

CPP staff conducts a brainstorming session over plans for the Nanih Waiya play.

Nanih Waiya play script team hold their own brainstorm session to develop a plan for the storyline. Pictured from left are volunteers Melford Farve, Clay Wesley, CPP staff Andrew Willis, & Roseanna Thompson.

ABOVE, *Bobby Smith (second from right) shares his thoughts with ECHO representatives.* **RIGHT**, *Roseanna Thompson attentively listens as presentations are given by ECHO representatives.*

Center, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, New Bedford ECHO Project, and the Pea Body Essex Museum) gathered for the meeting to discuss the progress of recent ECHO programming, and developing future goals and objectives.

The ECHO partners discussed ways to enhance, develop, and implement cultural teaching resources for improving the national awareness of native cultures among school age children. The ECHO meetings also included presentations to the U.S. Department of Education staffers.

Present at meetings representing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were MBCI ECHO CEO and Project Director, Roseanna Thompson; Robert Smith, MBCI ECHO Project Manager, and Rosemary John, MBCI ECHO administrative assistant.

Members with the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at MSU are mapping and assessing the Nanih Waiya Mound and surrounding archaeological features.

Mapping the Mother Mound

The Cultural Preservation Program is currently working on a project in partnership with the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University to map and assess the Nanih Waiya Mound and surrounding archaeological features. Presently, no detailed map of the site currently exists; the team from MSU is using advanced GPS and survey equipment to map the area in great detail.

The project hopes to locate and define the remnants of other key site features, which have been recorded in historical descriptions but are no longer visible to the naked eye.

Division of Early Childhood Education news

submitted by Delilah Gibson, Nutrition Coordinator, DOECE

A parade of fruits, vegetable, milk, and bread? Yes! That is exactly what you saw on March 19, 2010, if you

see DOECE NEWS, pg. 10

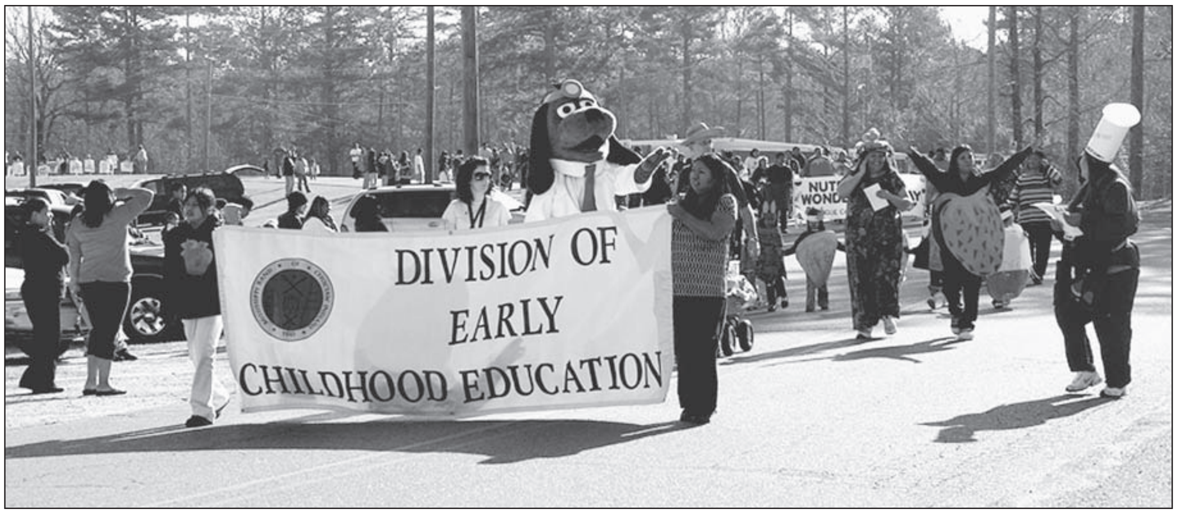
APPLY NOW!

Don't wait till it's too late! Head Start and Early Head Start Registration has begun! Pick up your application today at your local Early Childhood Center! Children with Disabilities are encouraged to apply. Call now for more information.

Bogue Chitto Head Start/Early Head Start 601-656-7221
Conehatta Head Start 601-775-8850
Pearl River Head Start 601-650-1719 or 601-650-1712
Pearl River Early Head Start 601-389-2899
Red Water Head Start/Early Head Start 601-267-9261
Standing Pine Head Start 601-298-1580
Tucker Head Start and Early Head Start 601-389-205

The following verifications are required for enrollment:
-Income Verification
-Birth Certificate
-Social Security Card
-Certificate Degree of Indian Blood
-Current Immunization Form 121
-Current Physical Exam
-Current PPD (TB Skin Test)
-Current Nutrition Assessment
-Current Dental Exam

Providing comprehensive child services for Choctaw families.


DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Division of Early Childhood Education personnel and participants took part in a Healthy Choices for Healthy Bodies Parade on Friday, March 19. In observance of National Nutrition Month, children dressed up as their favorite fruit or healthy food choice. The parade started at the Choctaw Social Services parking lot & concluded at the Pearl River Amphitheater where an interactive session focused attention on the importance of making informed food choices & developing sound eating & physical activity habits

DOECE NEWS .... continued from page nine

were in the vicinity of Social Service and the Tribal Administration Office.

The road was flowing with healthy food choices, children, parents, grandparents, teachers and other staff members dressed up as fruits and vegetables, items you would find on a food pyramid. They were lead by our very own Fruit Goddess, Mrs. Tanya Tullos, Program Director for the Division of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) and Healthy Hound, a mascot for United Healthcares of Jackson, Miss.

The DOECE Program is helping fight obesity by making healthy choices. The theme for the parade was “Healthy Choices, Healthy Bodies” and this is exactly what the teachers have been busy teaching the children in our program. They are stressing the importance of eating the right food for the body to function properly.

The body needs healthy foods like fruits and vegetables, plenty of water and let’s not forget physical activity. This can be anything like running, walking, dancing etc.

DOECE would like to encourage everyone to start, if not already doing so, to make healthy choices for healthier, happy bodies.

The day turned out great as we had people lined up on the side of the road to watch their favorite fruit/veggie walk on by.

As I looked around I saw Mr. Green Jeans, I mean Mr. Hanna, Budget Tech for DOECE, who was hauling a wagon load of vegetables. Then a big juicy strawberry passed by. Oh, but wait! That was Glenda Denson, our Choctaw Culture and Elder Coordinator. Then, looking further down the road directing the parade traffic, I saw Terrye “Water Melon’ Jackson. She wasn’t about to be left out! She wanted everyone to know that watermelons are a great source of vitamin A.

Also cruising down the strip was our very own Jennifer Henry, Enrollment Specialist, also known as the Chef of the South. I bet she was trying to decide on what nutritious meal she could conjure up, she had her apron on and tools ready for grilling, baking or broiling.

Then wheeling around the corner was Richard “Hot Rod” Isaac, Disabilities/Facilities Coordinator, riding his big tricycle. He was showing us how he keeps in shape by exercising daily.

After the parade, the children gathered at the Amphitheater to watch a puppet play about eating healthy which was presented by the Nutrition Department from Choctaw Health Center, Penny Dickerson and Vivian McGarity.

Then the Healthy Hound and Ms. Aleisha performed their routine “Dance like a Duck.” All the children participated and had a great time!

We had judges decide on which center was the most creative. Winners were: third place, Conehatta Room #5; second place, Red Water; and first place winner was Tucker Head Start. Everyone did a great job and we will do this again next year.

We want to “thank” all those who took part in making this parade a hit: Choctaw Police Department for making sure traffic was kept to a halt till our little ones paraded on through; the Public Information staff for getting the sound equipment and flyers out to the public; the Nutrition Department of Choctaw Health Center, Penny Dickerson and Vivian MaGarity; United Healthcares; the rest of the DOECE staff for helping out; and last but not least, our parents for volunteering in their child’s classroom to help make the costumes and to be a part of our parade. Without our parents, we would not be, and so many thanks to all of you for your unending support and love of our Early Childhood Program. Again, Yakoki!

DOECE parade first place, Tucker

RED WATER EATS HEALTHY

DOECE parade second place, Red Water.

Fresh
Produce
Conehatta

DOECE parade third place, Conehatta Room #5

Choctaw Tribal Schools announces third nine weeks honor rolls

The Choctaw Tribal School System released the third nine weeks honor rolls recently.

BOGUE CHITTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko’s List

First grade - Daysia Henry, Katelyn John, Quentin McClelland, Cheyan Robinson, Christy Thomas.

Third grade - Jamion Johnson.

Fourth grade - Anne Henry & Jade Willis.

Principal’s List

First grade - Chaney Billy, Sudiann Frazier, Quindon John, Breanne Mingo, Camilee Nance.

Second grade - Dakota Bautista, Michael Bell Jr., Gabriel Clemmons, Dewayne Cotton, Jr., Ryan Henry, Sara

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Littlevoice, Julian Joe, Kendrick Wesley.

Third Grade - Breanda Ben, Brianna Ben, Draven Cotton, Sasha Cotton, Tayler Morris, Kelby Tomas, Kenyatta Willis.

Fourth grade - Taylor Cotton, Ethan King, India Samuel.

Fifth grade - Raina King.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Miko's List

Seniors - Amelia F. Ben, Cassandra L. Hickman, Famie C. Willis.

Principal's List

Seniors - Mariah D. Clemons, Randolph D. Cotton, Melody M. Denson, Vandy L. Lewis, Ricky L. Mingo, Joshua K. Thomas, Ashland N. Wallace, Shonda R. Wesley, Cheyenne N. Willis, Trisilla L. Willis, Brianna L. Windham.

Juniors - Anissa A. Allen, Natalie M. Anderson, Sahinna D. Anderson, Anthony B. Martin, Rosanita McMillan, Marcus J. Sockey Jr., Kursten N. Watkins.

Sophomores - Jordan B. Bell, Sidney T. Butler, Jasmine R. Comby, Jose L. Cruz Jr., Alexanderia N. Glass, Brandon W. Hickman, Nicholas D. Isaac, Shauna N. Lewis, Johanna N. McMillan, Dezaraye M. Willis.

Freshman - Briana L. Ben, Onnahinli D. Denson, David W. Hall, Kameren T. Hickman, Lanena G. John, Nicklaus C. Shumake.

Teacher's List

Senior - Irvin S. Willis.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal's List

Deon Denson, Kelly Dixon, Travis Dumont, Tia Jimmie, Juan-Diego McMillan, LaShayla McMillan, Craig Nickey, Renaysia Polk, Calvin Roberts, Jada Sockey, Kerigan Wesley, Dalen Wheeler, Brandy Willis, Ozzie Willis, Shaneisha Willis, Demarquis Wilson, Shawn Wishork, Taylum Wishork, Trevor York

CONEHATTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Miko's List

First grade - Lane Farmer, Alexander Gibson, Tiana Jim, Shantashia John, Jayden Mack, Anastasia Williamson, Brannon Wilson.

Second grade - Matt Jimmie.

Third grade - Dillon Farmer, Mathis Hall, Larena McMillan, Hayden Nickey, Hunter Smith.

Fourth grade - Caleb Williamson.

Eighth grade - Stephanie Shoemake.

Principal's List

First grade - Billie Isom, Deeshayna Jefferson, Afton Johnson, Alarys Martin, Keondre Nickey, Jaiden Thomas, Katrel Thomas, Samuel Wallace.

Second grade - Leona Billy, Justina Hall, Christi Lewis.

Third grade - Kyle Allen, Drake Anderson, Camerson Jenkins, Makayla Jenkins, Jayna Thomas, Jessamine Thomas, Cynthia Willis, Tara Willis.

Fourth grade - Hannah Anderson, Yunish Billy, Sharandon Isom, Lorenzo Shoemake, Jocoby Thompson.

Fifth grade - Madison Dixon, Megan Jim, Melody Jimmie, Hannah Lewis, Mya Williamson, Casson Wilson, Casson Wilson.

Sixth grade - Dylanna Charlie, Shaylon Farmer, Harvey McMillan, Laraya McMillan, Coby Smith, Damion Williams.

Seventh grade - Sydnie Ferris, Trinesa Isom, Keaton Taylor, Garrett Thomas.

Eighth grade - Bridgette Anderson, Emily L Shoemake, Jonica Thomas, Kurtland Williamson.

PEARL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Miko's List

First grade - Jackson B. Anderson, Caden Bell, Melayney Billy, Charlita Gibson, Kearson Grisham, Angeleighia Hickman, Kyler Jefferson, Brannon Jim, Brighton Jimmie, Lyleonia Johnson, Cohen Keats, Alexandria Martin, Isley Mingo, Krissy Shomemake, Meloney Thames, Ciji Vaughn, Jasmine Velez, Trevell Vivians, Sierra Wallace, Jalissa Williams.

Second grade - Jaden Alex, Kashden Bell, Alzie Billy, Karl Butler, Jr., Kessler-Rea Clemmons, Makaylie Denson, Davian Hickman, Jr., Connery Hodges, Jaiden Jackson, Melanian Jimmie, Cori Keats, Azalius Lewis, Colin Martin, Krystin Martin, Jasmine McMillan, Rayven

see HONOR ROLL, pg. 12

Summer Feeding Program scheduled for June 2-July 2

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will be sponsoring a summer feeding program. Meals will be provided to all children ages 18 & under without charge & are the same for all children, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability, & there will be no discrimination in the course of the service.

The program will begin June 2 & end July 2, 2010. Meals will be provided at the sites & times as follows: Bogue Chitto Elementary, Tucker Elementary, Choctaw Central High School, Pearl River Elementary, Conehatta Elementary, Standing Pine Elementary, Red Water Elementary, Crystal Ridge Facility Building, & Bogue Homa Facility Building.

Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:30 a.m. & lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please call the Food Service Department at 601-656-0766.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write or call to: USDA, Director Officer of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 1-800-795-3272. USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

2nd Annual DOS Golf Tournament

4-Person Select

First 36 teams

Date: June 19, 2010
Time: 1:00PM –Shotgun Start
Please arrive by 12:00 noon for cart distribution

Cost: $160 Per Team
Location: Dancing Rabbit Golf Course

Team Members: 1.______________ 2. _______________
3.______________ 4.________________

Team Handicap:____________

Benefit for Choctaw Central High School Solar Car Team
Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each division
Drawing for Prizes

Sponsor a Hole $200.00

We need you to sponsor a hole for our tournament. A sign will be placed at a hole with your logo and/Or business name. Your business will also appear on the golf cart's GPS as the cart arrives at your sponsor hole. Your donation will help the CCHS Solar Car Team participate in the Hunt-Winston Solar Car Challenge this July.

Contact: Liddia Hughes-601-663-7802 or 416-1761
Joey Long-601-663-7807 or 562-1208
Frankie Germany-601-663-7806
Natasha Phillips 601-663-7602

HONOR ROLL

continued from page eleven

McMillian, Hunter Orduno, McKenzie Samuel, William Samuel, Tia’Rain Saunders, Leloni Shoemake, Gaston Wesley, Jalen Williams, Martina Willis.

Third grade - Treyton Ben, Xavier Sam, Kravon Willis.

Fourth grade - Kacy Bell, Lauren Ben, Shayly Chickaway, Trajan Fielder, Taylor Griffin, Deontay Isaac, Jerale Willis, Reyes Willis.

Fifth grade - Jennard Bollin, Tyson Griffin, Katarina McMillan, Emily Scobee. Sixth grade - Breanna Isaac & Robert York, Jr.

Principal’s List

First grade - Shante Beauliew, Elliyonna Chickaway, Channa Clemons, John Y Clemons, Ja’Miya Foster, Evangeline Hall, Marylee Hall, Jawarrick Hickman, Gerrett Isaac, Emily Jim, Meagan John, Christopher Lewis II, Amaya McMillan, Destiny Mingo, Kayla Mingo, Lany Reed, Trayden Stephens, Romero Thomas, Ammery Thompson, Gage Wesley, Taylor Willis, Madison Wilson, Cody York, Jr.

Second grade - Lacaniya Anderson, Mary Ben, Keithan Billy, Jayson Briscoe, Dantzler Clemons, Dallanicka Dixon, Tristan Gibson, Memorie Henry, Ja’Shuntaye Isaac, Daytin Jefferson, Jarred Jim, Nikilette Jim, Deontrae Joe, Maiya Joe, Brice Ketcher, Deiman Perkins, Ashanti Phillips, Austin Phillips, Dorianna Samuel, Lonzo Thomas, Lucas Thomas, Jr., Kaliyah Tubby, William Williams, Breanna Willis, Denyunhia Willis, Megan Willis, Junaluska Wilson, Jr., Coyo York.

Third grade - Janeon Alex, Dalen Anderson, Braydon Bell, Alexander Ben, Isabella Brescia, Christopher Cotton II, Camille Dixon, Felicia Fortenberry, Khalid Hickman, Johsua Isaac, Jaylon Jackson, Kyle Matthews, Kathryn Monk, Kari Nickey, Miriam Rehman, Trevor Sam, Marco Thomas, Jr., Sammy Thomas, Robin Tubby, Winona Tubby, Aspen Wesley, Angelique Willis, Christina Willis, Tatiana Willis.

Fourth grade - Kenau Anderson, Trushaun Berry, Abby Billy, Julius Billy, Kelsy Billy, Teegan Clemmons, Narron Cotton, Tori Cotton, Brayton Jim, Asa J Jimmie, Daniel Jordan, Antonio Perez, Darien Tubby, Miciah Tubby, Tyus Whitecrow, LaChrisha Williams, Jerale Willis.

Fifth grade - Thomas Charlie, Dedrick Jordan, Allison Meely, Keyla Mingo, Alexis Sam, Gatorson Wesley, Karanina Willis, Diajah York.

Sixth grade - Dylan Alex, Christin Bell, Julian Billy, Justice Fielder, Pegan Jackson, Montel Jordan, Tanesha Lewis, Nicholas McMillian, Josiah Monk, Emilee Thames, Hannah Williams, Adonis Willis

RED WATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko’s List

First grade - Wynter Willis.

Second grade - Armando Lopez.

Third grade - Myric Anderson & Rayden Sockey.

Principal’s List

First grade - Shareese Billy, Sarah Williams, Kevan Willis, Bruce Wilson.

Second grade - Jaida Bell.

Third grade - Errol John, Japheth John, Catherine

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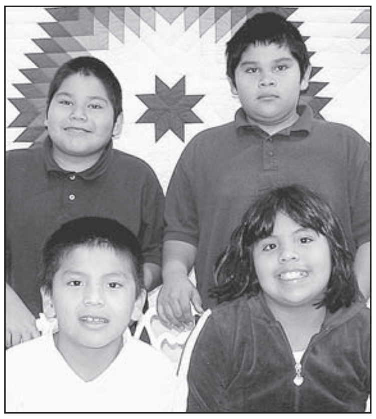
BCES TUTORING NEWS



ABOVE, *Third graders participating in day tutoring are, seated from left, Kelby Thomas & Kenyatta Willis; standing, Shawn Issac & Isiaha Dixon.*

BELOW, *Students participating in the after school tutoring program.*

DAY TUTORING

Day tutors at Bogue Chitto Elementary School serve approximately 50 students each semester. These students receive additional help in the classroom and also are pulled out for individual help. Students work on skills and objectives that help to improve their MCT-2 scores but also help the students to achieve other goals in education required of our students at BCES.

Janette French serves as the reading/language tutor, and Sandra Holdiness serves as the math tutor.

Students are rewarded for their attendance and achievements at the end of each semester’s work. In some cases students are taught on a one on one basis. Mr. W.F. Bell provides additional resources for the tutors and awards for the students at the end of each semester.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Third grade students at BCES participate in an afternoon tutorial program. These students work Monday through Thursday with Ms. Nancy Martin on skills needed to improve their MCT2 scores.

First semester students worked on reading activities and this semester the students are working on math skills. Students in this program participate in games and computer activities as well as written assignments.

This tutorial program also provides individual instruction that helps improve their strength academically as well as their overall education to become good citizens of their community and country.

BCES hosts Community Relations Day

Our final Community Relations Day at Bogue Chitto Elementary was held on March 29. In our Title I parent meeting, Mrs. Benn spoke with parents about the upcoming MCT2, including the testing schedule & how parents can help their students be prepared to do their best. Following the meeting, fourth graders demonstrated their basketball skills with various drills. Thanks to all parents & family members who came to discuss their child’s achievement!

LEFT, *Rayna, Mahali & Malahta Henry.*

BELOW, *Hope Thames, Mahali Henry, Ashley Henry, Whitney Willis, Denzel Mingo, & Clifton Thomas.*

Tubby.

Fourth grade - Rey Barragan, Neshoba Reed, Jayshun Thomas, Catina Townsend, Samantha Wilson.

Fifth grade - Megan Sockey & Aaleyiah Willis.

Seventh grade - Selena John.

Eighth grade - Sharissa Jefferson & Kristin Josh.

STANDING PINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko’s List

First grade - Caitlin Arreola, Laliana Crosby, Deon Lewis, Traiton Martin, Nosikah Melendez, Tiger Munoz, Jocelyn Wesley, Syahinah Wheeler.

Second grade - Shemah Crosby & Kelsey Tangle.

Third grade - Tyrese Solomon.

Fourth grade - Skylar Comans & Jayasri Mitch.

TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko’s List

First grade - Bridgette Farve, Kristianna McCombs, Elleigh Willis.

Second grade - Makaylin Alex, Dathan Bell, Zachary Farmer, Zaryus Farmer, Loraine Isaac, Cody Roach, Kristiana Taylor.

Third grade - Raven Mingo.

Principal’s List

First grade - Jeyda Ben, Leilani Charlie, Shykim Chickaway, Ariana Ramirez, Kyleigh Steve, Alex Willis.

Second grade - Malakai Charlie, Dewight Chickaway, Seriah Cumberland, Bill Farmer, Jr., Damon John, Kyonia Kanagawa, Xative Nickey, Keyon Roach, Manning Willis.

Third grade - Trajon Bacon, Ashton Chickaway, Gabriella Farmer, Reneesha Farve, Tayah Latimer.

Fourth grade - Mahli Bell, Tiger Briscoe, Ethan Higginbotham, Candace Mingo.

Fifth grade - Scottie Amos, Ricky Anderson, Alex Bell, Eyabay Henry, Cy McMillan, Miguel Pedraza, Reese Tubby.

Sixth grade - Arishanda Jefferson, Nicolas Joe, Autumn McMillan, Jason McMillan.

Eighth grade - Terrence Comby & Shania Farmer.

Spring Festival art at Conehatta Elementary

In honor of the annual Spring Festival, Ms. Williams’ & Ms. Ammie's kindergarten class at Conehatta Elementary studied Choctaw culture this week. The students made canoes with Native Americans in them. They drew traditional decorations on totem poles. They used blue and white paint to decorate drums. They watched a video of a past Spring Festival & laughed as they watched themselves perform traditional dances. The students enjoyed these activities very much.

Monk places first in national competition

The Office of Indian Education of the U.S. Department of Education recently announced the winners of the 2010 Native American Student Artist Competition, an annual event that celebrates the values and documents the successes of education in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Pearl River Elementary School (PRES) sixth grade student Josiah Monk placed first in the Personal Narrative category for grades 6-8.

Josiah, the son of Delvin “Sam” and Sonja Monk of the Standing Pine Community, is a student in Mrs. Frankie Germany’s Choctaw Challenger class at PRES.

All Choctaw Challengers across the Tribal district were given the opportunity to enter art work or an essay in the contest which was open to all American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades Pre-K through 12. His essay was one of a total of 817 art and essay entries by native youth from 33 states.

All entries related to the 2010 theme of the competition, “Bringing Honor Through Education.”

Monk was awarded a certificate, a plaque and an electronic dictionary for the winning entry.

Monk’s essay will be part of the traveling exhibit of student art and essay winners which will be on display in museums, galleries and organizations throughout the U.S. and on the Office of Indian Education website.

Josiah Monk, right, placed first in the Personal Narrative category in the 2010 Native American Student Artist Competition. Also pictured is Choctaw Challengers instructor Frankie Germany.

Perfect attendance for PRES STEP students

Pearl River Elementary sixth graders who are in the Science Training Enrichment Program (STEP) at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson had perfect attendance for program meetings during the 2009-2010 school year. Students attended classes one Saturday each month from September through March. STEP is for students in grades 6-8 who demonstrate an interest & potential for high achievement & maintain a high grade point average in school. These students explore courses in science, mathematics, writing, computer skills, cultural awareness, & health careers. Pictured above are, front row from left, Hannah Williams, Hallie Denson, Emilee Thames; back row, Wilson Dixon, Justice Fielder & Bryce Billy.

Title I Extended Day Tutorial Program at PRES

The Title I Extended Day Tutorial Program at Pearl River Elementary School (PRES) provides students with assistance in reading, language arts & math. The purpose is to enhance student learning & increase student achievement.

Children are selected for the program by test scores or teacher recommendation. This year, two tutorial classes at PRES are limited to 10 students in each so teachers can give more individualized help on basic skills, curriculum objectives & test taking strategies.

Board games called Frog Games are available in the language arts class to strengthen specific skills & improve reading speed & fluency.

In math, computer programs Accelerated Math & Math Facts in a Flash, are utilized to improve math skills. Also, a dart game & an electronic flash card game are used to reinforce basic facts.

Tutoring takes place during the regular after school time frame. At the end of each semester, incentives are given for perfect attendance & for 10 point improvement of test scores.

Tutors are reading & language arts teacher Cynthia Case & math teacher Bonita Haynes.

The first tutorial session was from Sept. 14, 2009-Dec. 10, 2009. The second tutorial session runs from Jan. 6, 2010-May 6, 2010. Title I program coordinator is Mr. William F. Bell.

Tutors Cynthia Case & Bonita Haynes make plans for their classes at PRES.

FACE participant graduates

Congratulations to Terrance Tubby, who attends the Pearl River FACE Program, for passing his GED. The FACE staff & students are very proud of his accomplishments & would like to congratulate him on achieving his goals. Pictured above, from left, are Terrance Tubby & adult education teacher Angie Gordon.

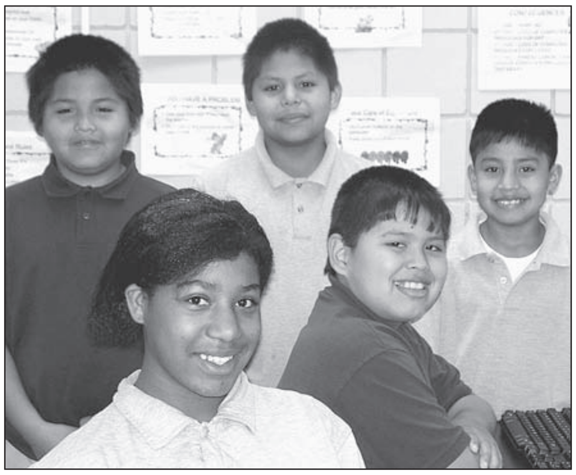
PRES kindergartners take flight

The Pearl River Elementary kindergarten students of Mrs. Heather Parks & Ms. Lana D. Tubby have been learning about spring & the weather that is often experienced during this time of year. On a recent windy day, students took their kites outside & let them fly!

PRES FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Pearl River Elementary students of the month - students who are selected based on good citizenship, attitude, & exemplary academic effort - were recognized with a certificate & a pizza party. Honored were Pre-K - Ayers Chickaway, Malakia Foster; Kindergarten - Kalebri Conrad, Orlando Dixon, Memorie Willis, Quinten Dixon; 1st - Kyler Jefferson, Ciji Vaughn, Alexandria Martin, Melayney Billy, Trayden Stephens, Jordan Nash; 2nd - Jada Comby, Dallanicka Dixon, Kessler Clemmons; 3rd - Angelique Willis, Maddison Nickey, Khalid Hickman, Skyler Joe; 4th - Trajan Fiedler, Isaiah Billy, Keylan McMillan, Justin Johnson; 5th - Dawndrea Jordan, Jennard Bollin, Trinity Steve; 6th - Christin Bell & Dylan Alex.

PRES day tutoring program



Pictured are, seated from left, Lakota Lacy & Darius Thompson; standing, McCoy Johnson, Toby Lewis & William Isaac.

The School-Day Tutoring Program at Pearl River Elementary School serves approximately 60 students in grades 3-6 this semester. Students receive additional help in their classroom or for small group sessions.

Students sometimes work on the computers to improve basic skills with games, Math Facts in a Flash & other programs. Students work on skills & objectives to help improve their MCT2 scores. Students are given a pre-test & post-test to access their progress during the semester.

Elaine Jefcoat serves as reading/language tutor & Nelda Sullivan serves as math tutor. Mr. William F. Bell assists the tutors by providing rewards for students for attendance & achievement at the end of each semester. He also provides resources for tutors to use with their students.

PRES fifth graders learn about weather

Mrs. Donna Crawford's language arts students read ***The Big Storm****, a fictional story about a storm that crossed the U.S. & details how fronts impact weather in spring time. WTOK Meteorologist Stephen Bower visited the fifth graders & explained causes & effects of weather, discussed weather safety & encouraged students to consider a career in meteorology.*

Breakfast with our best

Pearl River Elementary students who earned all A's during the third nine weeks were honored with a special breakfast on March 30. Students - along with their parents, guardians, grandparents, or special guests - were served a hot breakfast in the school gym. Thank you to Dianne Johnston, Community Education Specialist, & the PRES cafeteria staff for making this a special event for these top students.

CCMS students place in Beta competition

The Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS) Junior Beta Club recently had two students to garner statewide honors during the Mississippi State Beta Convention in Tupelo in March. They also earned an opportunity to compete at the national level in their respective categories.

At the convention, all students participated academically or submitted projects in arts and crafts.

Tiffani Riggen placed third in the area of homemade jewelry and was extended an invitation to the National Beta Club Convention, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, this June.

Jada Sockey was runner-up in an essay competition at the state level. This award was given to the two students from the state clubs attending who best conveyed an original writing from the theme title of "A Circle of Winners".

Jada will compete in June at the National Junior Beta Convention against students from clubs throughout the U.S. The following is the original work that Jada submitted at the state level, as well as the one she will submit for the national competition.

Circle of Winners

Through the eyes of most humans, they see themselves as winners. Winning is everybody's goal in life. It is the target for sports around the world, campaigns, job markets, everyday life, academics such as the Beta Club, and even racing fields and tracks. Beta Club is easily compared by its membership and attributes to the race horse in the winner's circle. A race horse must progress daily from a colt to the racing world's circle of winners. Comparatively, the Beta Club student must daily work his way from the induction stage as a beginner of Beta to the educational success that this club promotes as the winner's circle.

Junior Beta is at the colt and filly stage of progression when being compared to a race horse and the Betas are being trained to be the jockey. Within the Beta Club, mentors are striving to train students to be able to handle the pressure of being weaned from other colts and fillies. They are teaching us to handle the pressures of being separated from friends we have had for years, to take a stand in life, and to prepare us for our Triple Crown race in the future. While being a Junior Beta, one is taking the first steps to obtaining that rare Triple Crown. Our mentors realize how difficult this race is, they are training colts and fillies today in hopes of becoming mares and stallions.

One day as mentors have completed their tasks of training Beta Club students, the members can be considered mares and stallions. Unfortunately, only half of the club member will reach this point. It is not the fault of the trainer or the horse, but that of the individual. The jockey controls what we get out of Beta and what we make of it as club members.

A jockey and a trainer have to work together and get along just like a Junior Beta Club member and a mentor. It is important that the jockey and the trainer get along with one another. A horse can sense tension and hostility from the jockey. The same situation exists between a mentor and a student. If a mentor senses uneasiness from a student, he/she should pursue the problem head on and help the student resolve the issue.

CCMS students invited to participate at the national Beta competition were, from left, Tiffani Riggen and Jada Sockey.

Is this easy work? No one said turning a student into a Junior Beta and a Junior Beta into a Senior Beta would be easy. If it was, the world would be full of former Beta students, and they would have all gone for the Triple Crown.

A Triple Crown is one of the most difficult goals to achieve. Some horses win the first crown and fault on the second and third attempts. A few have won the first and second crown only to come up short in obtaining the third. To be one of the select few who obtain all three levels of victory is astronomical. In life some people obtain a college degree and fault on the career and citizenship. A few grab the college degree and career but fault in giving back to society. Only a select few are strong enough to run a complete race and not only win in school and academics but in life as well. Junior

...see CCMS BETA, pg. 16

CCMS BETA .... continued from page fifteen

Beta Club members serve as jockeys and the Beta Club serves as our horse. The members and club must be compatible in order to win our very own Triple Crown. Hard work helps us to run the race. We must also listen to our mentors, take care of our bodies and minds, and believe that we can succeed. Being a colt, filly, mare, or stallion is not only measured in grades. We, too, become mentors. Sure we must earn an A and a B average, but we also must maintain it. We have teachers and foals watching our every move and learning our conformation. Some foals want to be like us while others despise us. Beta teaches us to accept their envy as a compliment. Beta helps us take the challenge of turning a foe into a friend. This is one of the tasks that our mentors have given us.

Mentors get excited when they produce a sound pony because some of us come from a background of injuries, sorrows, and struggles. Our mentors are here to help each student with the encouragement needed to help in achieving success. They watch us start as a foal and help shape us into a mare or stallion. We all must work together to run the race and form one another into a winner. As Beta students we must also strive to form a teacher into a more successful mentor. The fruits of our labor are shown with a Triple Crown at the end of the race. When we walk across a stage and receive not just a diploma but a master's or a doctoral degree diploma, we have won one of the first crowns. When we are the best in our careers, we have won the second crown. As we give back to our community, school, or tribe, we have just become one of the select few to obtain a Triple Crown. When this occurs, not only does the jockey succeed, but the trainers and the horse also get recognized.

CCHS holds academic banquet April 20

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) honored student achievements during the 2010 academic awards banquet held Tuesday, April 20, at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle welcomed students, parents and guardians and officials as they honored students and their achievements for the 2009-2010 school year.

Senior Joshua Thomas, student body president, offered the invocation. Remarks were given by Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and Tribal Education Committee Chairman and Conehatta representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council Roger Anderson.

Seniors Hillary Ashton Allen and Ty Craig Isaac were announced as the Class of 2010's valedictorian and salutatorian respectively. They also received a special award from Mi̱ko Denson for their achievement.

Other top seniors honored included Melody Morgan Denson, Cassandra Lillian Hickman, Famie Cheyenne Willis, Shawna Nicole Hickman, Shonda Renee Wesley, Joshua Kane Thomas, Ashland Nicole Wallace, and Norma Chae' Isaac.

Students honored as 2010 Mississippi Scholars included Hillary Allen, Martika Bell, Amelia Ben, Robin Comby, Melody Denson, Rachel Dixon, Brandi Farve, Brittany Ferris, Donovan Garcia, Frankie Garcia, Christian Gibson, Cassandra Hickman, Shawna Hickman, Norma Chae' Isaac, Ty Isaac, Wesley Martin, Raven Morris, Joshua Thomas, Ariel Thompson, Sable Thompson, Mahlih Vaughn, Shonda Wesley, Joslynn Willis, and Trisilla Willis.

Justina Billy was awarded the Hugh O'Brien Scholarship.

Perfect Attendance honors went to Mary Bell, Jasmine Henry, Rosanita McMillan, Joshua Thomas, Diana Tubby, Jayson Wallace, and Rebecca York.

Sonya Willis was honored with the Presidential Fitness Challenge Award.

Students honored with subject awards included:

Allied Health I - Alexanderia Glass;

Allied Health II - Famie Willis;

Auto Mechanic I - Shawn Anderson;

Driver Education - Davian Thompson;

Word Processing - Chenice Ben;

Desktop Publishing - Shonda Wesley;

Computer Application - Lanena John;

Keyboarding - Nicklaus Shumake;

Accounting I - Donovan Garcia;

Personal Finance - Lila Willis;

BCT I - Markesha Willis;

Visual Arts I - Ariel Thompson;

Visual Arts II - Shelby Mingo;

Comprehensive Health - Leah Alex;

Child Development - Tasha Laird;

Nutrition & Wellness - Kaley McMillan;

Family Dynamics - Ty Isaac;

Band - Jasmine Comby;

Comprehensive Reading - Sharaina Farmer;

Public Speaking - Vincent Baker, Jr.;

Theatre - Melody Denson;

Choctaw Literature - Malaney Nickey;

Spanish I - Jasmine Comby;

Spanish II - Bronson Henderson;

Journalism Lab - Amelia Ben;

Humanities I - Kaley McMillan;

Humanities II - Shauna Lewis;

Algebra I - Kristen Dixon;

Algebra II - Jayson Wallace;

Trigonometry - Shawna Hickman;

Pre-Calculus - Joshua Thomas;

Geometry - Shawna Hickman;

Transition Algebra - Briana Ben;

Math Concepts - Jasmine Henry;

Learning Strategies (ACT I) - Ty Isaac;

Introduction to Biology - Jasmine Henry;

Biology I - Jasmine Comby;

Biology II - Sahinna Anderson;

Physics - Shawna Hickman;

Chemistry I - Amelia Ben;

Chemistry II - Jayson Wallace;

Human Anatomy & Physiology - Tasha Laird;

U.S. Government - Famie Willis;

Economics - Cassandra Hickman;

Psychology - Norma Chae' Isaac;

U.S. History - Jayson Wallace;

Choctaw History - Bronson Henderson;

World History - Johanna McMillan;

Mississippi Studies - Onnahinli D. Denson;

Introduction to World Geography - Mary L. Bell;

English I - Kameren Hickman;

English II - Deedra Sam;

English III - Kursten Watkins;

Accelerated English III - Anissa Allen;

Intro to Journalism - Johanna McMillan;

English IV - Amelia Ben;

Accelerated English IV - Hillary Allen;

Broadcast Journalism - Chenice Ben;

American Novel - Laettner Johnson;

Creative Writing - Shelby Mingo;

Mississippi Writers - Jayson Wallace; and

Short Stories - Brandi

..........continued next page

Farve.

Named Dormitory Best All Around Students were (male) Joshua Smith and (female) Alexanderia Glass.

Upward Bound Student of the Year was Rachel Dixon.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) officers honored were Shonda Wesley, president; Bronson Henderson, vice-president; Kursten Watkins, secretary; Melody Denson, treasurer; Ashland Wallace, reporter; Norma Chae' Isaac, historian; and Joshua Farmer, parliamentarian.

FBLA competition winners were: (district) John Hickman, Anissa Allen, Natalie Anderson, Keyosha Comby, Bronson Henderson, Justin Tubby, Shonda Wesley, Norma Chae' Isaac, Shawna Hickman, Briana Windham, Jasmine Comby, Onna Denson, Melody Denson, Colby Wallace, Kaitlin Leach, and Lanena John; (state) John Hickman, Bronson Henderson, Jasmine Comby, and Lanena John.

BETA officers honored were: Melody Denson, president; Bronson Henderson, vice-president; and Martika Bell, secretary.

Pride Club officers honored were: Mahlih Vaughn, president; Rachel Dixon, vice-president; Raven Morris, secretary; Shilandera Anderson, assistant secretary; Natalie Anderson, reporter; and Rebecca York, reporter.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes officers honored were: Adam Dixon, Jr., president; Laettner Johnson, vice-president; Shonda Wesley, secretary; and Tasha Laird, assistant secretary.

Student Council officers honored were: Joshua Thomas, president; Norma Chae' Isaac, vice-president; and Destiny Tubby, secretary.

Jesse and Velma Thomas of Conehatta were honored as Parents of the Year.

Pictured above are CCHS students honored during the academic awards banquet held April 20.

MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW
TUSHKA HASHI
HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR CAR PROJECT

Adopt-A-Cell

CCHS Solar Project Team (Chahtas) is a student organization with two central goals. First, the Solar Project Team is devoted to pushing the limits of solar technology by designing, building, testing, and participating with solar powered vehicles. Second, SPT exists to raise awareness of the possibilities that lie in environmentally friendly technology.

CCHS Solar Team was started in 2005 with participation in the Dell-Winston Solar Car Challenge. Since that time, the CCHS Solar Car Project team has represented the MBCI well in both annual track and cross-country races, with Tushka Hashi III winning first in its class in 2009. Our team has the distinction of being the only Native American solar car team in the nation. We have brought national attention to the tribe by our participation in these events and our students have had wonderful opportunities and experiences.

We are in the process of finalizing the preparations for the 2010 cross-country race. We also plan to add solar cells to Tushka Hashi II for the track race next year in order to make it more efficient and have two cars so that more students have opportunities to participate in the races.

To accomplish this task, CCHS (Tushka Hashi) needs your help! The central feature of Tushka Hashi is the solar array. The array, comprised of several hundred solar cells, is the sole energy source powering the car. The solar cells, lithium ion batteries, and power controllers are most the expensive components of the vehicles. By adopting cells, you are making a **tax deductible donation** to the team and to the future of this endeavor. CCHS Solar Project accepts donations of any value with gratitude.

Detach and Return

I would like to adopt:

________ solar cells X $20
# of cells

________ Other donation amount

________ Total Donation

Please make checks payable to CCHS Solar Project

____
First Name Last Name

____
E-mail Address

____
Address

____
City State Zip

5th Annual White Buffalo Pow Wow

Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo
2272 N. Coley Road, Tupelo, MS, 38801
www.tupelobuffalopark.com

May 14-16th 2010

HONORING OUR MILITARY AND VETERANS

"LUCK OF THE DRAW'

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS OR BLANKETS AND ENJOY AS WE DANCE WITH OUR DRUMS BEAT TO THE SONGS OF OUR ANCESTORS, WE WILL HAVE DIFFERENT STYLES OF DANCE, SOME YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE....THERE WILL BE SPECIAL DANCES FOR THE CHILDREN.

COME TRY LACIES MOUTH-WATERING FRYBREAD

BEAUTIFUL ARTS AND CRAFTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
HEADMAN AND HEADLADY- DAILY PICKS
MC- KEN DIXON
AD- JASON THIGPEN
HOST SOUTHERN DRUM- JARVIS POAHWAY-COMANCHE SOUTHERN
HOST NORTHERN DRUM- Dan Isaac- Southern Pine

AZTEC DANCERS QUETZALCOATL

ALL DRUMS AND GOURD DANCERS, DANCERS WELCOME

FRIDAY MAY 14, 2010- 9AM-5PM SCHOOL DAY
SATURDAY MAY 15, 2010- 9AM- ?
SUNDAY MAY 16, 2010- 9AM-5PM

Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo will not be held liable for theft or injury on the park grounds. No drugs, firearms, or alcohol are allowed at this event.

CONTACT: 1-866-272-4766 OR HAL COLSTON: 901-876-5344 FOR MORE INFORMATION

All Dancers, Drums and Princesses Welcome

Choctaw Central High School
END-OF-THE-YEAR
CONTEST POWWOW
Fri-Sun, May 28-30, 2010
MS Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation

Please be respectful and do not bring drugs or alcohol to this event

Head Staff:
M.C.: Capt. Harold "Doc" Comby (MS)
Arena Director: TBA
Head Man Dancer: Todd Johnston (AL)
Head Lady Dancer: Laretta Weaver (AL)
Head Gourd Dancer: Joseph Bohanon, Ph.D (OK)
Host Drum: Southern Pine Singers (MS)

Schedule of Events
Grand Entry: Friday-7 PM; Saturday-2 PM/7PM; Sunday-2 PM
Grounds will open at 8 AM each day and close at 11 PM each night.
Gourd Dancing: Friday-6 PM; Saturday-1 PM/ 6 PM Sunday-1 PM

All singers, dancers, and staff will be fed at lunch and dinner

$25 Vendor Fee

Free Admission to all!

For more information, contact:
Bronson Henderson, Powwow Committee Chairman
bronsonhenderson1@yahoo.com/(601)-562-9969

SPES students learn about Diabetes

Life Skills Teacher Dennis Duran and students from Standing Pine Elementary School enjoyed information on diabetes given by Nana Frazier, Prevention Specialist/Fitness Instructor, from the SDPI Diabetes Prevention Program.

Tucker Elementary hosts spring festival

Tucker Elementary School held its annual Spring Festival on April 1. Mrs. Brooke Sibley, principal, welcomed everyone & Darin Willis (2008-09 Parent of the Year) led the invocation.

Dianne Comby, music teacher, organized the special program of dancing. Students in all grades enjoyed the chance to sing, dance & especially wear their traditional clothes.

Tucker Head Start students did the Snake Dance while Tucker Pre-K & kindergarten students did the Wedding, Duck & House Dances.

Students in grades one & two did the Friendship, Fast War & Duck Dances. Third & fourth graders performed the Quail, Corn & Raccoon Dances.

Fifth & sixth graders did the Tick, Turkey & Snake Dances. Students in grades seven & eight performed the Stealing Partners, War, Mosquito, & Walk Dances.

Special thanks to chanter Bruce Jim & his apprentice, fifth grader Ricky Anderson Jr.

The Choctaw Central High School Band Winter Guard assisted the faculty & staff by serving, setting up & cleaning up. The delicious traditional meal of fried chicken, fry bread, hominy, hog meat, green beans, & an assortment of luscious desserts were prepared by friends of Tucker School, volunteers from the community, & staff to a tremendous crowd of over 600 students, parents, community members, & friends.

Assisting with the preparation, cooking, serving, & cleaning up were Tucker School teachers & staff.

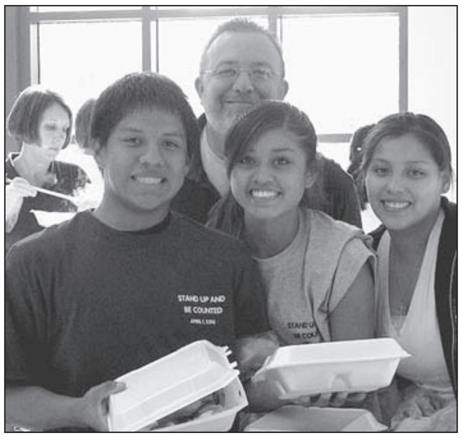
Mrs. Sibley, principal, said, “The Spring Festival is one of our favorite traditions because it is so much fun for everyone, and it represents Choctaw history. Our staff worked so well as a team, and I really appreciated all of their extra efforts to make this a successful event! We are proud to be a part of practicing these traditions and insuring our young people understand how much we value the Choctaw cultural traditions.”

RIGHT, *Jordyn Frazier, Alexis Farmer, & Jennaya Steve.*

Pictured above are Tucker Elementary princesses Alexandra Mingo & Autumn McMillan.

Tucker student dancers.

Pictured above, front row from left, are Hunter Jones, Rebecca York, Mariah Johnson, Jasmine Comby, Assistant Band Director Dorian Trahan; back row, Craig Dixon, CCHS Band Director Elter Wilson, Destiny York, & Sahinnah Anderson.

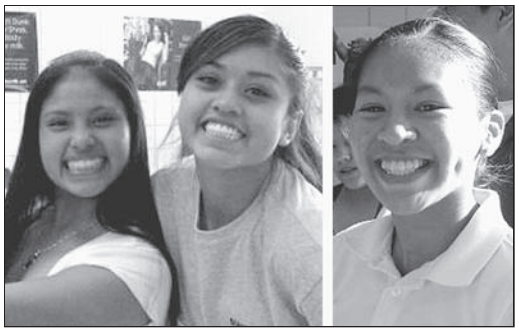


RIGHT, *Front row from left, Hunter Dixon, Sahinna Anderson, Destiny York; back row, Pam Breland & Dennis Duran.*

Candace Mingo, Jordyn Frazier, Ashton Chickaway, & Jennaya Steve.

Presents donation to color guard

Tucker Elementary School Principal Brooke Sibley presented a donation to the Choctaw Central High School Winter Color Guard to show appreciation for their assistance in serving & cleaning up for Tucker’s Spring Festival on April 1. The color guard will use the donation to help them attend competition this summer. Pictured from left are color guard members Mariah Johnson, Sahinna Anderson & Jasmine Comby.



OTC hosts heritage festival

The Occupational Training Center held its third annual American Indian Heritage Festival on Thursday, April 1, 2010. This event was a school-parent-community effort to increase understanding of Indian Heritage.

School officials offered remarks to those in attendance. Other activities enjoyed by all at the festival included door prizes, traditional Choctaw social dancing by various dance groups, house dance music, pow wow dancing with a drum group accompaniment, vendors, & a delicious meal afterwards.

Pictured above are members of the elder dance group. Pictured right are musicians Karl Willis on guitar and R.J. Willis on the fiddle.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

February Events

On Feb. 5, teens were taken to the Pearl River Boys & Girls Club Teen Center for a Valentine’s Dance. They enjoyed eating, dancing & socializing with the PR teens. Thanks to Gail & PR teens for inviting us!

On Feb. 7, five members of the art group were taken to watch the play “Steel Magnolias,” at the Philadelphia-Neshoba Theater. Members enjoyed watching the cast portray the characters from the movie.

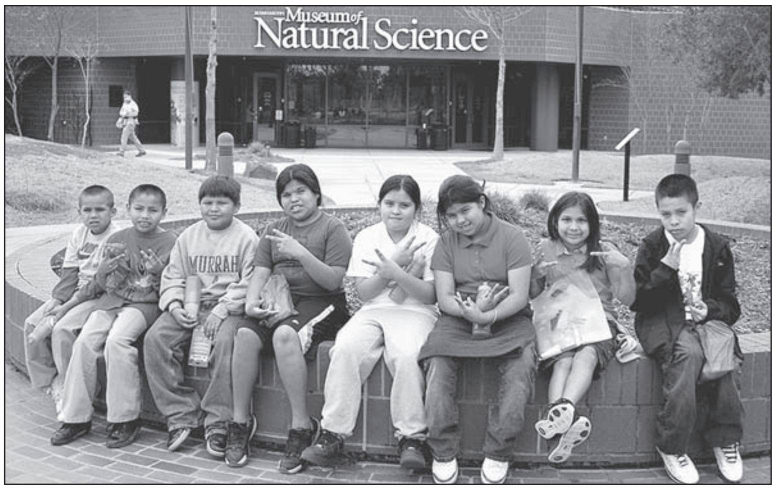
On Feb. 14, members of the TORCH & Keystone Clubs, who have been volunteering for various community & club services, were taken to the Dixie National Rodeo. They watched bull riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, bareback riding, team roping, the clowns, and attended the Darryl Worley concert.

On Feb. 26, Teen Night was held at the club. Teens enjoyed an evening with their peers.

March Events

On March 11, TORCH & Keystone members attended the Census Awareness Pow Wow in Choctaw.

On March 12, Teen Night was held at the club. Rebecca Alex with the Youth Opportunity Program came and informed members about the Summer Youth Employment Program for 2010. Thank you Rebecca for coming to our club.



Members of Ultimate Journey visit the Museum of Natural Science.

Club members participate in a basketball tourney.

Spring Break

On March 15, members ages 11-18 played in a basketball tournament held by the Pearl River Teen Center & the Choctaw Diabetes Department. Kurtland, Albert, Damion, Mya, Fabion, Leslie, & Lashayla placed second. We had fun. “Thanks” to the Diabetes Department & the Pearl River Teen Center.

On March 16, teen center members participated in the Choctaw Challenge Course. The teens had a lot of fun! Thank you to instructor Andrew Jones.

On March 17, Ultimate Journey members visited the Natural Museum to see Woodsey the Owl & Smokey the Bear & learn about nature.

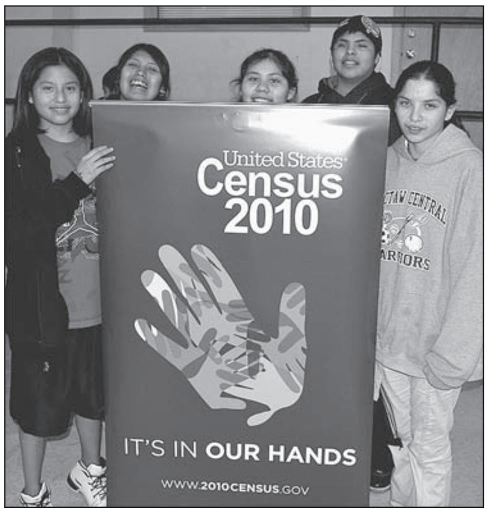
On March 18, members ages 11-18 were visited by representatives of the Family Violence Program. Juannina & Sheila informed the members about dating violence.

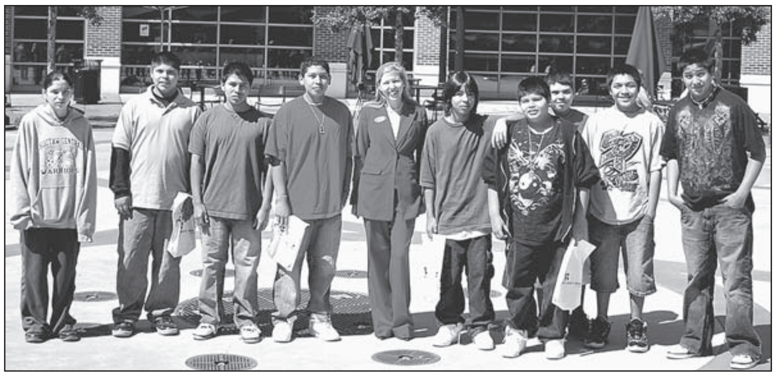
There was also a spring break celebration cook out & movies at Canal Place. Members enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers & watched Alice in Wonderland.

On March 19, we had the pleasure of the Cultural Affairs Program come down and demonstrate various beadwork to our members. Thank you for coming!

TORCH & Keystone members visited the University of

..see CLUB NEWS, pg. 20





LEFT, *TORCH & Keystone members at the Census Awareness Pow Wow in Choctaw.* **RIGHT**, *TORCH & Keystone members visit the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.*

Boys and Girls Club

Teen Center

Pearl River Unit

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school year hours

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Teen Center

Pearl River Unit

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BASKETBALL

Teen Center Open

June 1, 2010- July 13, 2010

7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Questions? 601-663-7016

CLUB NEWS .... continued from page nineteen

Alabama in Tuscaloosa. They toured the university and had lunch on campus.

RIGHT, *Club members dye eggs for the Easter egg hunt.*

BELOW, *Winners of the Easter egg hunt with their prize baskets.*

On March 26, Teen Night members were taken to the Underage Drinking prevention presentation at the Pearl River Boys & Girls Club, sponsored by SPF SIG prevention program.

On April 1, Good Friday-Easter Celebration, we had an easter egg hunt, egg dying contest & ice cream. Prize eggs were hidden and members who found them received Easter baskets full of goodies to enjoy.

On April 9, Teen Night was held at the club. We had a presentation by the Family Violence & Victim's Service Program on dating & victim's rights.

..........continued next page

P.R. teen center hosts March Madness B-Ball Challenge

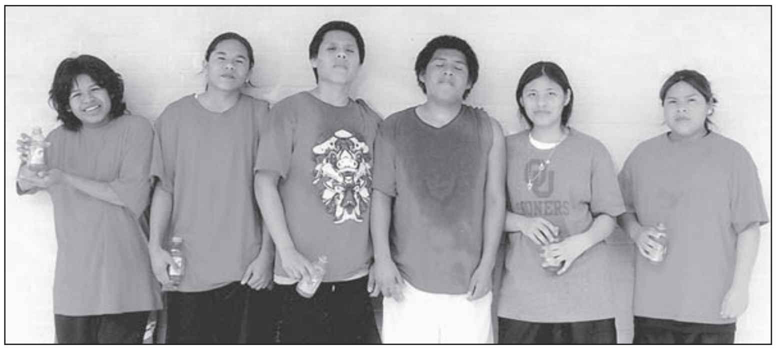
DJ's Team members include Sahina, Jayson, Charmayne, Mason, Djon, & Precious.

The Pearl River Boys & Girls Club teen center hosted a basketball co-ed challenge with the Choctaw Health Center's Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) on March 15.

We had 122 teenagers to sign up for 10 team slots in the 12-14 age division and 15-18 division. They had run keeping their teams in the tourney with co-ed members on the floor at all times. But there had to be one winner for each division.

For the younger division, it was A-Town Ballers who made it to the top. For the 15-18 division, it was DJ's team who made it all the way for the win. Each winner received a $20 gift card to Pizza Hut or Subway.

Thanks to all teams who participated. Big heartfelt thanks to the Diabetes Prevention Program that helped make it a success, the Boys & Girls Club staff and S.D.P.I. staff that helped a great deal in calling the games, keeping score, providing snacks and lunch to those in attendance.



A-Town Ballers team members include Simon, Hester, Sherman, Aldreca, Shameka, & Alise.

On April 23, TORCH & Keystone members volunteered at the annual Spring Festival at Conehatta Elementary School.

On April 30, Teen Night was held at the club.

On May 1, a Mother's Day activity was held for 10 members ages 5-10 & their mothers. They were taken to the MSU Riley Center in Meridian to watch the play, "The Little Mermaid."

Upcoming Notices

We will be closed May 24-May 31 to prepare for the summer session.

Parents, please stop by the Central Office or the Conehatta Boys & Girls Club to submit a summer application beginning May 17-21, between the hours of 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

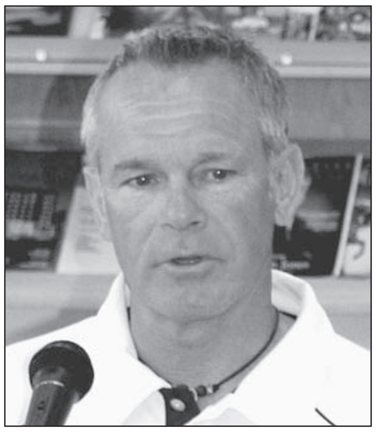
Summer session for the club begins June 1. Club hours will be 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Summer session will end July 13.

School session for the club will begin August 2.

Members take part in the Choctaw Challenge Course.

Cheatham named new CCHS head football coach

A new football era begins at Choctaw Central High School as Steve Cheatham was named the new head coach of the Warriors.



New CCHS head football coach Steve Cheatham

An introduction ceremony was held at the CCHS library on Tuesday, April 13, as Cheatham and school officials expressed their optimism and excitement for the upcoming football season.

"I'm looking forward to taking Choctaw Central to a level hopefully that it's ever been to before and that's a state championship. I'm not going to stand here and guarantee we're going to win seven or eight games, our goal is to win a state championship and it's the only goal we have," said Cheatham as a round of applause erupted.

CCHS Principal Dr. Greg

..see CHEATHAM, pg. 22

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CHEATHAM .... continued from page twenty-one

Pictured, seated from left, are CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle, new head coach Steve Cheatham, assistant coaches Edward Routh, Troy Savell, Jerrod Thompson; standing, emcee Barry Jim Sr., CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson, & Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry.

Carlyle said he was impressed with the positive impact Cheatham has already made to the school and it's football program and his knowledge of the game.

"We know he will inspire our student athletes to great things both on and off the football field. He has passion for the game of football, all you need to do is talk with him for a moment and that shines through as he has expert knowledge in football. All those things together are going to build our program and develop it into a winning program," said Carlyle.

Cheatham was a part time assistant coach for the Warriors last season and takes over head coaching duties from Paul Killen. Under Killen's two-year tenure, the Warriors were 6-15.

"What I was impressed with coach Cheatham was his character. Character is one of the ingredients for an individual to be successful. I believe that based on his experience, he can make our program one of the best one in the county," said Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry.

CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson added that Cheatham has "been a perfect fit here for the couple of weeks he has been here. We can expect good results, his resume speaks for itself."

Cheatham has over 30 years of coaching experience in the high school and collegiate levels. His stints include Neshoba Central High School, Philadelphia High School, Dothan (Ala.), East Central Community College, Clemson University, and the University of Mississippi.

He retired from East Central in the summer of 2009 when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent successful surgery.

In the fall of 2009, Cheatham was hired by the Choctaw Tribal Schools as a P.E. teacher at Conehatta Elementary School. Last August, while burning trash on his family property, old lighting fuel ignited as Cheatham suffered serious burns to his arms and legs. It took him six-weeks to recover from his injuries.

Coming back to Conehatta, Cheatham coached the seventh and eighth grade basketball teams and led the girls team to a runner-up spot in the title game of the Choctaw Tribal Schools annual basketball tournament this past January.

During the 2009 football season, Cheatham became a part time assistant coach for the Warriors.

"Coming out here, working part time this past year, (the assistant coaches) here love these kids. They have a passion for the game and that's what I missed, the comradery we have as coaches and these kids just draw you to them. Those are the kind of people that you can take and build something around them. We have to be competitors everyday and everything that we do," said Cheatham.

Cheatham added that building a top ranked high school football program needs to start at the junior high level with the involvement of all Choctaw Tribal Schools.

"It's not going to be an overnight thing. There's no quick fixes for a championship football team. We're looking to build a program that's going to last a long time and we got to start that in our junior high program and that's where we'll start."

As an assistant coach at Clemson University in 1993, Cheatham said he realized what kind of coach he wanted to be while under the tutelage of head coach Ken Hatfield.

"When I leave this earth, I'm not going to be judged by how many games I won and

..........continued next page

Choctaw teams sweep NAYO titles

LEFT, The Lady Heat claimed the 2010 Native American Youth Organization's annual girls basketball tournament on April 3. This year's tournament was held in Choctaw. The finals were held at the Choctaw Central High School gymnasium. Team members include, kneeling from left, Anissa Allen, Precious Jim, Chenice Ben, Shauna Lewis; back row, Jana Chickaway, Lila Willis, Heather Tangle, Kristen Dixon, Shonika Billy, & Mahli Bell. **RIGHT**, The Choctaw Express claimed the 2010 Native American Youth Organization's annual boys basketball tournament on April 3. Team members include, kneeling from left, Justin Bell, Donovan Garcia, Durelle Cooper, Lee McMillan; back row, assistant coach Robert Garcia Sr., waterboy Justice Fielder, Kahlon "Jack" Logan, Anthony Wilson, Bryson LaSarge, Frankie Garcia, Cameron Powell, & head coach Robert Garcia Jr.

lost, I'm going to be judged by how many kids' lives were changed because of something I may have said or something I may have done. And that's what I'm going to be most proud of when I leave, I want to be able to leave here and know that lives were changed. That's what we are in the business for as coaches, teachers, administrators. We're here for the young people and try to help them, and hopefully we'll win a few football games along the way," said Cheatham.

Cheatham, born and raised in Neshoba County, graduated from Neshoba Central High School in 1974. He graduated from East Central in 1976 and received his bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation from Mississippi State University in 1978.

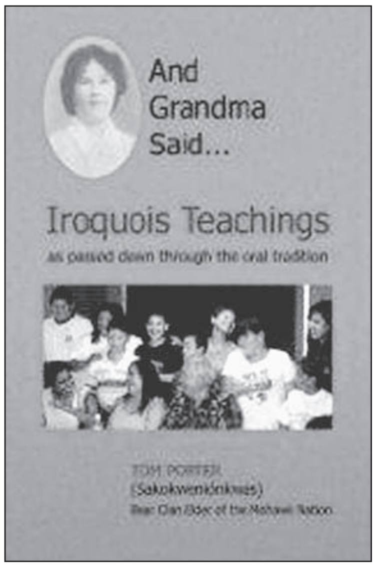
He was an assistant coach at Neshoba Central for 18 years before leaving to coach as a graduate assistant at Clemson University. It was there he received his masters degree in secondary guidance and counseling in 1995.

He returned home in 1997 and became head coach for Philadelphia High School for four seasons. He then went to Oxford and served as assistant head coach and director of football operations at the University of Mississippi under head coach David Cutcliff.

He then returned home and became the head coach at Neshoba Central. Afterwards, he went to East Central and became an assistant coach. He was then selected to serve as head coach until his retirement in 2009.

AND GRANDMA SAID…

Iroquois Teachings, as passed down through the oral tradition


And Grandma Said...
Iroquois Teachings
as passed down through the oral tradition
TOM PORTER
(Sakokweniónkwas)
Bear Clan Elder of the Mohawk Nation

by Tom Porter
(Sakokweniónkwas)

The Iroquois culture and traditional Longhouse spirituality have a universal appeal, a ring of truth to them that resonates not only with other indigenous people, but also with non-Native people searching for their own spiritual roots.

Raised in the home of a grandmother who spoke only Mohawk, Sakokweniónkwas (Tom Porter) was asked from a young age, to translate for his elders. After such intensive exposure to his grandparents' generation, he is able to recall in vivid detail, the stories and ceremonies of a culture hovering on the brink of extinction.

After devoting most of his adult life to revitalizing the culture and language of his people, Tom finally records here, the teachings of a generation of elders who have been gone for more than twenty years.

Beginning with an introduction about why he is only now beginning to write all this down, he works his way chronologically through the major events embedded in Iroquois oral history and ceremony, from the story of creation, to the beginnings of the clan system, to the four most sacred rituals, to the beginnings of democracy, brought to his people by the prophet and statesman his people refer to as the Peacemaker.

Interspersed with these teachings, Tom tells us in sometimes hilarious, sometimes tragic detail, the effect of colonization on his commitment to those teachings.

Like a braid, the book weaves back and forth between these major teachings, and briefer teachings on topics such as pregnancy, child-rearing and Indian tobacco, weaving the political with the spiritual. Through his recollections of "Grandma," and what she said, we also get an inside view of the life of a Mohawk man, and his struggles.

Sometimes articulate and at other times inventive with his second language of English, Tom takes us on the journey with him, asking us to trade eyes, by "erasing the blackboard" to see if we "can understand what a Mohawk sees, feels, is happy about and is sad about."

Chapter sections and headings include: The Opening Address, Colonialism, Creation Story, Language in 3D, The Clan System, Trading Eyes, Funerals and Contradictions, A Language Dilemma, The Fog, Where We've Settled, The Four Sacred Rituals, Atenaha: the Seed Game, The Four Sacred Beings, Three Souls or Spirits and Ohkí:we, Weddings, Pregnancies, A Spiritual Ladder, Child Rearing Methods, The Great Law of Peace, Some Notes on Tobacco and Other Medicine, The Leadership, Casinos, Prayer?, The Future and The Closing Address. There is also an appendix of interviews with Tom's children, entitled: What Grandma's Great-Grandchildren Learned.

Written as it is, by someone raised predominantly by a grandmother, it contains teachings which might otherwise be lost. The Iroquois culture and traditional Longhouse spirituality (of which Mohawk is one of five - and more recently six - nations) has a universal appeal, a ring of truth to it that resonates not only with other indigenous people, but also with non-Native people searching for their own spiritual roots.

Due to the suppression of indigenous spirituality and culture, not only in Iroquois country, but across North America, many are searching to recover the remnants of what has been lost.

This book makes a significant contribution to doing that, having been written by one of the original leaders of the revitalization movement. During the 1960s and 1970s this Mohawk Bear Clan Elder traveled extensively across North America with a group called the White Roots of Peace, a group which has been credited as the original stimulus for the growing trend to return to traditional ways on this continent.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Thomas R. Porter (Sakokweniónkwas), is a member of the Bear Clan of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne, an Iroquois territory located on the St. Lawrence River. He is married to Alice Joe Porter who is Choctaw. (Alice's sister and other relatives still live in Mississippi). He has six children and eleven grandchildren.

Porter was raised in the home of his maternal grandmother, who spoke very little English. Thus he is one of the last generation of his people to be raised as a Mohawk speaker from birth.

During the winters, a "great-grandfather," his grandmother's uncle, also lived in their home. Like his ancestors, who listened to traditional stories during the long winter months by the fire, Porter was weaned on the teachings of his great-grandparents' and his grandparents' generation.

Teachings reaching back these three generations were reinforced when, from his early teenage years, he was often asked to interpret for the traditional chiefs. (Later, from 1965 to 1976, he served officially as the Interpreter for the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.)

This unique background paved the way for him to become a champion for the revitalization of First Nations languages and traditions. Now a respected elder, he has devoted his life to educating both

............see BOOK, pg. 24

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BOOK .... **continued from page twenty-three**

Native and non-Native people about the true history, culture and spirituality of the Iroquois or, as they prefer to call themselves, the Haudenosaunee.

Porter began his teaching career as a member of the touring group “The White Roots of Peace.” Organized under the authority of the Mohawk Nation Council. The group crisscrossed the continent providing its audience with unfiltered insights into the history, culture and concerns of Native people. It enabled young Mohawks like Tom to channel their energy into a highly demanding occupation as cultural ambassadors while igniting the fires of contemporary Native political activism.

Tom was selected as a spokesperson because he was not only an excellent public speaker but had the trust of the Mohawk Nation Council. He could be expected to represent Akwesasne with honor and to set an example for his peer group, as to personal conduct.

Porter encouraged his Native audiences to take pride in their heritage, and to look into their history for the strength they needed to remove the shackles of generations of active suppression, by Canada and the USA.

The response was immediate, passionate and enduring as Natives began to organize formal resistance to destructive policies aimed at obliterating indigenous people as distinct political and cultural entities.

Porter’s Mohawk name, Sakokweniónkwas, means *He Who Wins Them Over* or *He Who Enables Them to Do Something*. Throughout his adult life, his impact on Native North Americans across the continent has been to enable them to regain lost pride in being who they are, and to regain lost pride in their cultures and languages. He has truly been *He Who Wins Them Over*, *He Who Enables Them to Do Something*, of deep value and significance.

From 1968 to 1976, Porter was Secretary of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs. And from 1971 to 1992, he was the Acting Sub-Chief for the Tehanakarine Chieftainship title. This is one of the nine chief titles of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. Chiefs are considered to be both political as well as spiritual leaders. His many duties included officiating at marriage ceremonies, death ceremonies and conducting other traditional ceremonies throughout the year. He is still called on to help out as needed, when his schedule allows.

Since 1993, Porter has been the founder, director and spiritual leader of the traditional Mohawk Community of Kanatsioharè:ke, located in the homeland of his ancestors, near Albany, New York. For the story of that community and how it came to be, see his previous book, *Tom Sakokwenionkwas Porter: Kanatsiohareke: Traditional Mohawk Indians Return to Their Ancestral Homeland*.

He has also authored a number of shorter works and pamphlets, all of which teach about Mohawk traditions and spirituality.

He is currently the Native American Consultant and Chaplain for all Native inmates in the New York State Penitentiary System. His office is located in Albany, New York, but he travels all over the state to meet with Native inmates.

..........continued next page

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Porter tells us that his grandmother's name, *Konwanataha*, means Carrier of the Village. Porter's heritage from her is to be a treasured carrier of the culture, honoring her memory by carrying her teachings to all who want hear those beautiful and valuable words.

REVIEWS

I have known Tom Porter (Sakokweniónkwas) for most of my life; he is a cousin, a blood relative from the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory astride the St. Lawrence River, 100 km southwest of Montreal. He has, over the past four decades, become one of the most respected cultural teachers among the Iroquois, a spiritual leader welcome across the continent for his sincerity, wit and knowledge.

In ***And Grandma Said*** *he summarizes the ancient customs and traditions of the Mohawk people using his distinctive teaching style which blends together charm, humor and a remarkable command of aboriginal culture.*

Tom absorbed as much as he taught. His growing wisdom and inherent leadership qualities were acknowledged by the traditional leaders of the Mohawk Nation when he was asked to serve on its governing council while still a very young man.

As the years rolled by I came to realize how important it was for our leaders such as Tom to establish a written legacy as to their knowledge. I also knew it would be vital to preserve the flow of Tom's speaking which is uniquely Mohawk. Fortunately, the editor of ***And Grandma Said*** *has proven to be the best person possible for collecting and editing a portion of Tom's teachings, leaving intact the rhythm of Tom's thoughts.*

Lesley Forrester has done a tremendous service to contemporary aboriginal literature by having Tom address the most important elements of Iroquois history and culture. Together, Tom and Lesley have produced a book which is, without exception, the best summation of what it means to be a traditional Mohawk in modern times.

As the reader is enlightened about ceremony and society. they are also entertained by stories of deep personal significance to Tom and his family. The book is equal in importance to Arthur C. Parker's ***Parker on the Iroquois*** *or William Fenton's* ***The Great Law of the Iroquois****. It may be their superior since it is the product of someone who has experienced Mohawk life in all of its dimensions, by a person who has devoted his life to preserving the heritage of his Nation.*

Douglas M. George-
Kanentiio, Bear Clan
Mohawk
*Author of *Iroquois on Fire*
*Winner, 1994 Wassaja Award for
Journalism Excellence by the Native
American Journalists Association
*Member of the Board of Trustees
for the National Museum of the
American Indian

"For more than four decades, no one in the Native American community has been more respected than Tom Porter for his deep commitment to peace and the traditional ways of the Haudenosaunee - as well as for his humility and gentle self-deprecating humor.

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author of *Our Stories
Remember*

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May days to remember

May is well known for Mother's Day, Memorial Day and of course, graduation day. All of these days are known to be spent with family and loved ones.

Graduation is among one of the happiest days in a parent's life. It marks a new beginning for their child. The staff at the Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center would like to take this time and congratulate each and every child who is graduating this year, whether it's from head start, pre-k, high school, or college. You have started on an unforgettable journey in your life and we hope that you achieve all of your goals and dreams.

Memorial Day is a day where we remember our veterans and those serving in the armed forces. We should all give thanks and praise to our soldiers for all that they have done and are still doing now, especially of our fallen soldiers. No words can express how much we thank them. We challenge everyone to thank a fellow serviceman/woman for all they have done.

Mother's Day is a day we take time to praise our mothers. It doesn't matter if it's an aunt, a grandmother, a sister; in some way, shape or form, this woman has been there for you through all your good and bad times. A mother is not necessarily someone who gave birth to you, but someone who will do just about anything for you and has been there for you. We wish all the mother's a very Happy Mother's Day!

This project was supported by Grant No. 2006-VI-GX-0010 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

FAMILY VIOLENCE IS NOT A CHOCTAW TRADITION

Things you should know about family violence.

TYPES OF ABUSE

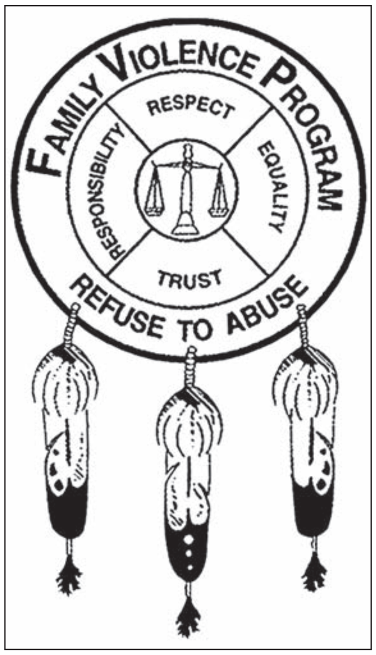
1. Partner Abuse - Partner abuse can cause medical bills, lost time at work and eventually loss of a job, serious injury, and even death.

Many people believe that partner abuse is just between the two partners. This is not a true statement. When there is partner abuse in the home, it affects the KIDS. It also affects the ones around you that love you, such as mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and can go as far as cousins and other family members.

It will also affect the people that you work for and with because they see the bruises, scratches, hurts, and pains.

2. Physical Abuse - Pushing, slapping, punching, kicking, or choking or any type of force that causes injury is physical abuse.

3. Emotional Abuse - Threats, deprivation of sleep, money or affection, harassment at work, insults or other verbal abuse or any pattern of behavior that causes pain.



Some Common Characteristics of Abusers

1. He or she may feel the need for control. Violence becomes a way to gain power.

2. He or she probably witnessed abuse as a child or were abused themselves in

............see ABUSE, pg. 26

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UP AT THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
CALL DEESANDRA BEN @ 601-650-1612.

ABUSE .... continued from page twenty-five

the home.

3. Have a poor self image, feels unable to control their own lives.

4. Do not communicate well and has trouble expressing feelings.

5. Feel intense jealousy, arises from low self esteem.

6. Abuse of alcohol. This habit may be used as excuses.

The Cycle of Abuse

1. Tension Building - When minor conflicts occur, there may be some minor physical abuse. This stage may last for months but you as a victim should be aware that the end will come.

2. Major episode of violence - This can be triggered by small quarrels. Once the attacks start there is little the victim can do to stop it.

3. Trying to reason with the abuser seldom works at the stage.

4. A period of remorse - The abuser feels ashamed and guilty and tells you it will never happen again. The abuser will be on his/her best behavior for a while and treat you with kindness and love. Then the cycle starts over again.

There are men and women who are victims of abuse. Men tend not to report the abuse because they feel ashamed and unmanly. There are fewer programs to help men due to this fact.

There is also Mutual Abuse. This is when both parties engage in physical or emotional abuse.

Most victims and abusers need outside help to stop the violence!

A community at work to stop the violence, the Choctaw Indian tribe has programs in place to help both the victim and the abuser.

1. The Family Violence and Victim's Service - We see both men and women.

2. The Batterer's Intervention Program - Both male and female can enter these groups.

Family Violence and Victim's Service does outreach on many subjects that deal with family violence:

1. Partner abuse;

2. Family violence hurts children;

3. Dating violence;

4. Sexual assault;

5. Date rape;

6. Elder abuse.

Please call our office at 601-650-1777 if you need a speaker for any of the above subjects. There is a women's support group twice a month to deal with any or all of these subjects.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES, CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

submitted by Regina Shoemake,
Foster Care Coordinator

REACHING OUT FOR FOSTER PARENTS

In celebration of May being Foster Care Awareness Month, the foster care coordinator will be visiting each community development club and/or community to promote awareness and recruitment for families interested in becoming foster parents.

Foster parenting takes a special person who is willing to open their heart and share their family with our children. It is not easy and the foster parents who make up our foster care program are to be commended. It is not possible without our foster parents, and we say "yakoki" to all of them.

The following are comments from foster parents and foster children about their experience in the foster care program.

Foster Parent Comments

"I went through foster homes myself so I want to help by making foster children feel wanted and to make a difference in their lives."

"I care about children and wanted to share my home with them, want them to know that we love them, and to teach them to live right."

"Our home is always open to every child, we enjoy them, and we hope to make a differ-

............continued next page

SHIRLEY & MALCOLM'S SMOKE SHOP

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8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

T. Ellis Studio
Vince O. Nickey Photography

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Ranging from Children Portraits, Family Portraits, Senior Portraits,
Special Events, Sporting Events.
We Specialize Exclusively in Weddings, Engagements.
Various Package Prices Available to Meet Your Very Special Occasions.

For more information on pricing or appointments,
send questions to vince.nickey@yahoo.com

ence in their life.”

“I feel like I helped a child sleep without worrying about where they will sleep and where they will get their next meal. That gives me a good feeling.”

“Children are God’s children. We need to take care of them and I get great satisfaction by taking them into my home and letting them be a part of our family.”

Foster Children Comments

“I love everything about this foster home.”

“I feel like someone cares about me and I like that.”

“I feel like I belong with this family because they treat me like family.”

“I don’t have to worry about where I will sleep, when I will eat, or where I will be tomorrow.”

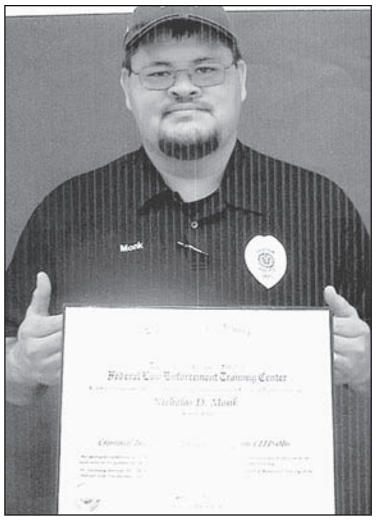
The CFS Foster Care Program’s goal is to have foster homes in each community. Having homes in each community would be beneficial to placing children within their own communities where they are closer to family and familiar settings.

If you have an interest in becoming a foster parent, call Regina Shoemake, Foster Care Coordinator, at 601-656-1741 or come by and talk with her.

YAKOKI!

The Children & Family Services Program would like to express a belated “Yakoki” to all of the people & organizations who took part in making our foster children’s Christmas wishes possible.

Monk graduates from Criminal Investigator Training Program



Nicholas Monk, Sr.

The Criminal Investigations Division of the Choctaw Police Department is proud to announce the successful completion and graduation of Nicholas D. Monk Sr., who attended the Criminal Investigator Training Program at Glynco, Georgia.

Monk started his 12-week training from January 2010 through March 2010. Some agencies consider the investigator training as special agent training.

Monk was trained on how to put together a continuing case where evidence, witnesses and information was gathered to submit to a mock federal court at the end of the training. Monk was also subject to training in firearms, use of force, handcuffing, baton, driving, physical fitness, crime scene, and academics, to mention a few.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) is a component of the Department of Homeland Security and the federal government’s focal point for training law enforcement personnel.

The FLETC provides basic police and criminal investigator training for officers and agents of it’s partner organizations, as well as advanced training that are common to two or more organizations.

This certification is one of many completed by Monk during the course of his law enforcement career here at Choctaw. Monk was one of three that received the firearms award for scoring high in the firearms training division.

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A site by Natives, for Natives,
promoting our culture and
our peoples in a positive way.

Graduates from MLEOTA

Four members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) and a member of the Souix Tribe graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers’ Training Academy (MLEOTA) in Pearl, Miss., on Thursday, March 25, 2010.

MBCI tribal members Ira Ben, Shaun Jimmie, Dwight McMillan, Jordan York, and

see GRADUATES, pg. 28

Graduates pose with Charlie Alexander, Special Projects Director of MLEOTA. Front row, from left, are Dwight McMillan, Charlie Alexander, Brandon Fireplace, Ira Ben; back row, Shaun Jimmie and Jordan York.

GRADUATES .... continued from page twenty-seven

Sioux tribal member Brandon Fireplace, along with 58 others, were part of Basic Class #229 and undertook an intensive 10-week training course to meet qualifications needed to become law enforcement officers.

Guest speaker for the ceremony was Charlie Alexander, Special Projects Director for MLEOTA, who is retiring after 50 years in law enforcement. He encouraged the graduates to always be honorable and dedicated people, both in their professional and private lives.

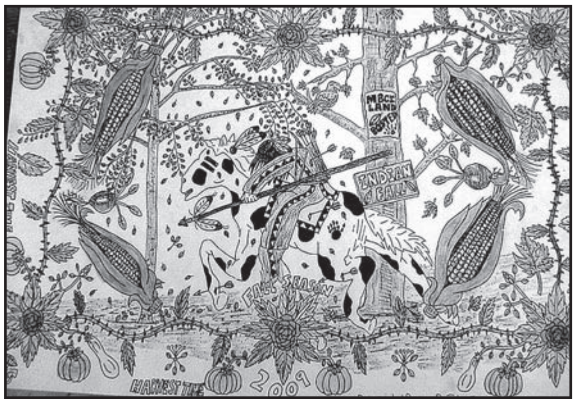
Alexander also had the honor of administering the Code of Ethics to the graduates. The ceremony closed with the presentation of the graduates to the audience.

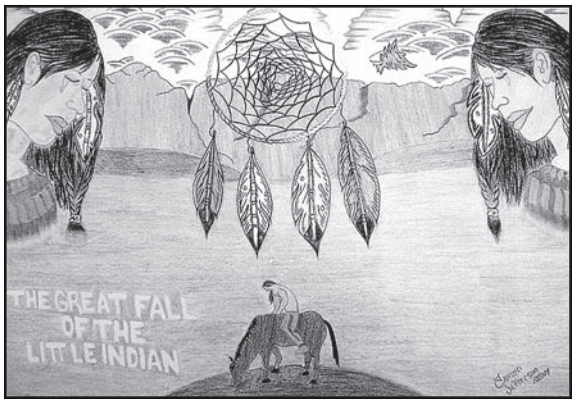
Many friends and family attended the ceremony to support and encourage the new graduates.

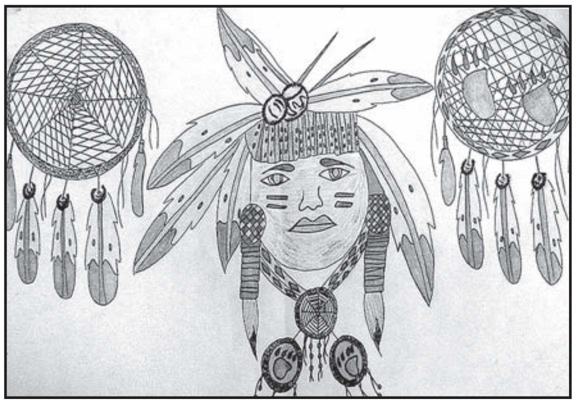
Ben will serve in the Choctaw Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Department, while Fireplace, Jimmie, McMillan, and York will serve in the Choctaw Police Department.

Inmate artists honored

During the last quarter of 2009, the Choctaw Detention Center held an art contest for the inmates. The theme of the art contest was “Indian Fall”. After judging the drawings that were submitted, the following individuals were honored. Duane John placed first ***(art on the left)***, Arman Jefferson placed second ***(art bottom left)*** & Cory Hall placed third ***(art bottom right)***.




THE GREAT FALL OF THE LITTLE INDIAN



In Memory

PAT THOMPSON

Funeral services for Pat Thompson, 50, were held Tuesday, March 23, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Thompson passed away March 20 in Philadelphia.

Born in Ripley, Tenn., Thompson resided in the Bogue Chitto community since 1968.

His hobbies included watching sports on television, tending his garden & talking to people.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ellis & Lena Mae Thompson; grandmother, Beauty Jackson Morris; brothers, Slick Thompson & Stanley Thompson; & sisters, Nora D. Frazier & Diane Jo Billie.

Survivors include sisters, Suzanne Stoliby, Effie Bell, both of Philadelphia, & Darlene Thompson of Conehatta; a brother, Ralph Thompson of Choctaw; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

..........continued next page

“THE POWER TO CHANGE ANYTHING”

by Pastor Thomas Ben

There are many people in this world that want to change their life so that they may be happy. Because of this, they begin their journey of searching for what they can do to bring about change and happiness. Some try changing jobs, some buy materials (clothes, car, etc.), some look for another mate, some move to another state to get away from their problems, some try different churches or religion, some try losing weight, and the list goes on. By trying to change everything around (on the outside) they still can’t find happiness. The truth about this matter is the only way to be happy is to change you! You must undergo a deep inner change.

The power to change anything has been made available to us. **2 Timothy 1:7** says, *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.* **(Amplified Version)**

God did not give us fear. This is why we should never fear when it comes to changing our lives. Change is good when it benefits everyone, especially your loved ones. If Christ lives in you, you have His power to change anything, you have His love to treat others right, and you have His calm, well-balanced, disciplined and self-controlled mind to make good decisions. Make a decision to change and be happy!

For more teaching on “the power to change anything,” contact our office at 601.389.5446 or www.spiritoflifechoctaw.org.

Spirit of Life Christian Center • 278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350 • Phone 601.389.5446
www.spiritoflifechoctaw.org

Come join us.....

Sunday
10:00 am

Wednesday
6:30 pm

Spirit of Life Christian Center

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350

Pastor Thomas Ben

601-389-5446

Visit us on the web at:
SPIRITOFLIFECHOCTAW.ORG

ASHLEIGH CELESTE CHAPALA

Funeral services for Ashleigh Celeste Chapala, 19, were held Thursday, April 1, 2010, from the Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery in Walnut Grove. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Miss Chapala passed away March 30 at her residence.

She was a senior in a home bound program with the Choctaw Tribal Schools. She was an honors student with a perfect attendance achievement.

Survivors include her mother, Michelle Chapala of Walnut Grove; father, Billy Chapala of Okla.; a sister, Shannen Chapala; a brother, Dominic Chapala; family friend, Joseph Lewis, all of Walnut Grove; maternal grandparents, Bruce & Norma Long of Walnut Grove; uncles, Sonny Long & Jonathan Long of Okla.; & a host of relatives.

JAHLAYAH BEN

Funeral services for Jahlayah Ben, three month old infant, were held Friday, April 9, 2010, from the Pearl River Mennonite Church. The Rev. Duane Reinhardt officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Infant Ben passed away April 6 at Hospice in His Hands in Madden.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Mary Bell & Jerry Ben.

Survivors include her mother, Jennifer Ben; stepfather, Brandon Sam; sister, Nakayden Ben; brother, Kyzer Ben; aunt, Barbara Ben; uncle, Kyle Ben; great-grandmother, Susie Bell, all of Choctaw; and a host of relatives.

LINDA RENEE TUBBY

Memorial services for Linda Renee Tubby, 27, were held Saturday, April 10, 2010, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Ms. Tubby passed away March 25.

Her childhood was spent in Chicago before moving to Choctaw to live with her father. Upon her return to Chicago, she married & moved to St. Petersburg, Fla. She worked as a legal assistant for the law firm of Babboni, Shapiro & Goldman & a customer service representative for Lexus of Clearwater.

Tubby enjoyed listening to music & spending time with her children.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, W.C. Tubby, Audie Day & Ann Hank; aunts, Roberta Parks & Teresa Hank; uncles, Danny Hank & Charles Hank; & a sister, Doreen Downs.

Survivors include her children, Jacelyn Zumba, Richard Zumba Jr., Lily Zumba, & Sara Zumba; father, Steve Tubby of Choctaw; mother, Mary Tubby of Chicago; sisters, Rosie DeMarrias of Chicago & Audrey Tubby of Philadelphia; brothers, Richard Tubby of Chicago & Mushula Tubby of Philadelphia; & a host of relatives & friends.

DANIEL CARL "PERCH" WILLIS

Funeral services for Daniel Carl "Perch" Willis, 47, were held Wednesday, April 14, 2010, from the Pearl River Indian Baptist Church. The Rev. Robert Paul Tubby Sr. officiated.

Burial was in Old Canaan Baptist Church Cemetery in Choctaw. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Willis passed away April 7 at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Ill.

He was employed as a mason & loved to paint & box. He attended St. Augustine & the Anawine Center in Chicago.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bill Willis; uncles, Ramsey Mitch, Bobby Mitch & Jenkin Tubby; an aunt, Lena Mitch; maternal grandparents, Gilmore Mitch & Loriane Tubby Mitch; & parental grandparents, John Willis & Sophie Bell Willis.

Survivors include his mother, Geraldine Mitch Mendez of Choctaw; sisters, Lora Orduno & Florence Hodges, both of Choctaw, & Karon Bryant of Brandon; brothers, Jeffery Willis, Naveon Willis, Bruce Willis, all of Choctaw, & Alan Willis of Black River Falls, Wis.; & a host of aunts, uncles, relatives, & friends.

DELES MARIE JOHN DEON

Funeral services for Deles Marie John Deon, 57, were held Sunday, April 18, 2010, from the Red Water Community Gymnasium. The Rev. Ruth Ann McDonald officiated.

Burial was in the John

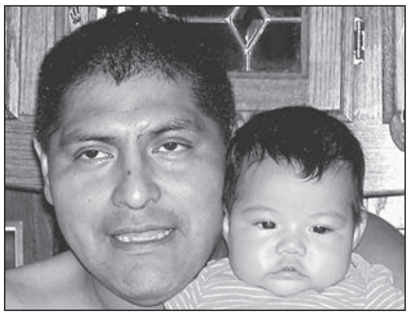
see OBITUARIES, pg. 30

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A SISTER-IN-LAW I TRULY MISS SYNTHIA DENISE BELL WILLIS

Sept. 19, 1966 - May 7, 2008

It's been two years since you were taken from us. I can't believe its been that long since the last time we talked. When I would be feeling down & beaten, & my world seemed to come crashing down, I didn't have to go far or look too far away - all I had to do was pick up the phone or come by & see you at work or home. You gave me strength & courage to stand up & take fight, making me realize there's more to this life. Your faith & confidence in me, as you always made me see; you always seemed to have the right answers. You were like a guidance counselor who always listened to all my problems & never failed me when I was feeling frail & weak. I remember the first time we came into each other's lives, we couldn't get along, but as time went by & we got older & matured, we became good friends. I really miss you cause I don't have anyone to talk to about anything anymore. You will always be close to my heart.

IN MEMORY BRADLEY DEAN WILLIAMS



We lost a very special person in our lives; we knew he left to a heavenly place when he left us. Coping with the sorrow that accompanies the death of a loved one is always difficult. We have gone (& still are) through the stages of grief. We had to live through it one day at a time. But now, after a year long wait, the family of Mr. Bradley Dean Williams would like to give our special thanks to the people that helped our family at the time of our loss.

We would like to acknowledge: all the churches that came & sang; Dancing Rabbit Golf Club; Tribal Language Program; Pearl River Resort Hotel & Operations; Unified Stickball Team; Pearl River Day Care staff; Choctaw Central Middle School students & staff; Elderly Nutrition Program; Employees Association; Northeastern State University (Tahlequah, Okla.); Mi̱ko Beasley Denson & staff; & lastly, family & friends. Thanks to all for the food arrangements that were made, flowers that were sent & sharing empathy with the family.

Mr. Bradley Dean Williams, a.k.a. "Burt", would have celebrated his 45th birthday on May 25. Burt was a loving husband, father, brother & uncle. He is greatly missed. With much appreciation to all the help we received, once again, we thank you!

Yakoki,
The Family of Mr. Bradley Dean Williams

OBITUARIES

continued from page twenty-nine

Memorial United Methodist Church Cemetery in Carthage. Wilcox Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Deon passed away April 15 at her residence.

She was employed with the Choctaw Tribal School System for over 36 years. She was a member of John Memorial United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Deon; parents, Bilbo & Eunice Isaac John; sisters, Rosie John Stepin, Judy John Mitch & Carmelita John Dixon; & brothers, Hillman John & Delano John.

Survivors include three daughters, Jenny Deon of Carthage, Connie Deon of Choctaw & Julia Ketcher of Philadelphia; sisters, Mary Lou Wilson, Leona Dixon, & Angeline Dixon, all of Carthage; five grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

ROGER GIPSON SR.

Funeral services for Roger Gipson Sr., 63, were held Tuesday, April 20, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services were in charge of arrangements.

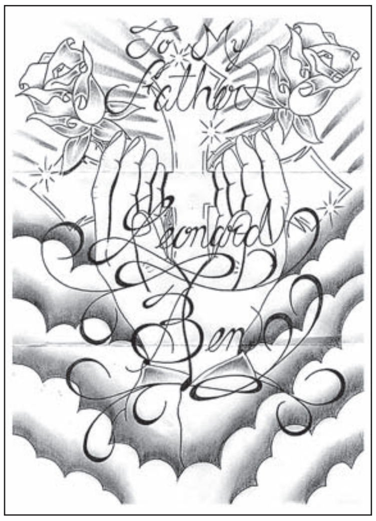
Mr. Gipson passed away April 15 at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, Ill.

He was employed as a machinist for 35 years at Cast Well Products in Chicago. He loved to read his Bible, listen to music & loved his dogs.

He was preceded in death by his father, Willie Gipson; mother, Mary Bell Willis Gipson; uncles, Zan Willis & Earl Willis; & an aunt, Ully John.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Jean Bell Gipson of Chicago; a son, Roger J. Gipson Jr. of Chicago; a brother, Nehemiah Gipson of Antioch, Okla.; & numerous relatives & friends.

Happy Mothers Day
Wendy Ben
Christy Ketcher
Mary Ben
LaTonja Dixon
Brenda Stephens
May 9,
Richal Ben


To My Father
Leonard Ben

To My Neices & Nephews
Tahya
Jordan
Jada
Marayah
Daylon
Shaylynn
Michael
Deyon
Grant jr.
Christopher
Richal Ben
Love You

HAPPY. 7th Birthdays:
TO: MARY-lee Ann Hall:
From. DAD: Cory Hall Sr. on. From.
Mom. Stacy Goodin. on. From
Lil Brothers Cory Hall Jr.
On. Family on. Friends
HAppy Birthdays:
To: You. MARYLEEANNHALL_ on. May 21.
From: DAD Cory Sr. Hall
5-21-2003
MARYLEEANN HALL
HALL
Cory Hayes 4-6-10

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO OUR BROTHER, MR. BARRY D. JIM, SR. ON MAY 7, 2010

TOKEN OF LOVE

Dear God, from heaven above, you sent to us a brother to love and care for. We give much gratitude to you and our parents. We honor your will and endlessly shower our brother with love.

Dear God, from heaven above where you sit, you've been there through it all. Through joy and pain, ups and downs, no matter what you carried us all with your unconditional love. And we all thank you.

Dear God, as our brother's keeper, we ask of you to continue keeping us at your side. We just appreciate our own brother and his very own happiness brings sunshine into our lives. We love you faithfully, God.

Barry, have a blessed Happy Birthday! We love you forever and always.

With love,
your sisters/brothers,
Mrs. Thelma R. Barnes
Ms. Daisy A. Jim
Mrs. Peggy Davis
Mr. Jimmy Jim
Mr. Davis Jim
Mr. Jared J. Jim

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 1st Birthday to "Carrots" Keirian Chickaway on May 7, Jaycia Chickaway on May 7 & Hayden Farmer on May 9. With lots of love, from Keondie, Kacey & Tylon.

Happy Belated Birthdays to my wonderful children - Morgan D. Jefferson on March 30, Meritza R. Henry on April 1 & Lil' Merle R. Henry on April 18. Also, Baby Shamilia said, "behave but have fun." Love from Michelle & Nick, Shamilia, Memorie, & Jairdan.

Happy Belated Birthday to Brenda Ray on April 23, from Rodney Jr., Danny, Brekitayta, Relissia Ray, & Bentley Ray.

Happy 3rd Birthday to our "Little Bully," Mena "The Mean" Willis on May 14, 2010. We love you, from Mom, Dad, sisters, family, & friends.

Happy Birthday on May 27, 2010, to the oldest living tortoise, Marcus "Loksi, Burts, Budda Cudda" Jimmie, Sr., from your family & friends.

Happy Belated Birthday to Gabe Hayes Anderson on April 12. Love you very much, from your Mommy, big sis Lashandell, your brother Ira, Bradon Jade, & the rest of the family.

Happy Belated Birthday to my husband, Geronimo Shoemake, on March 5, 2010. Love you always, from Sue-Wee.

Happy Birthday to Nina Anderson on April 9, 2010, & to Sky Shumake on April 15, 2010. Love always from your family in Conehatta.

Happy Belated Birthday to Adonis Ray Willis on April 19, from your family & friends.

Happy Belated 9th Birthday to my baby girl Shanika Renae Chapman on April 16, love from Momma, Shunita, Shantalidia, Brittany, Bryce, Jayce, & Shelton Jr.

To a wonderful mother, grandmother & great-grandmother of all, Ms. Joanne Lewis, on April 10. Hope you enjoy your 56th birthday. From your kids, grandkids & great-grandkids.

Happy 8th Birthday to my twin boys, Bryce & Jayce Lee Chapman, on May 16. We love you both, from your mom, Shanika, Jr., Shunita, Brittany, & Shuntalidia.

Happy 13th Birthday to our big sita Nakeema Reighn Farve on May 5. Love from your sisters Annisah & Telinah in Ada, Okla.

Happy Birthday to my brotha, Justin R. Sam, on May 2 & to my one & only lil sister, Hannah B. Sam, on May 5. With lots of love from your sis, Kim, & your niece, JoJo!

Happy Belated Birthday to Jessica Farve on

..................................continued next page

April 19. Love you! From Mom, Dad & Rodney.

Happy Birthday to Micheal Wishork on April 12, from Beasley & Shannon Willis & family.

Happy Birthday to my mom, Rosie Dixon, on May 28. Love you mom for all that you do, from Chat... to Breanda “Lotcha” Dixon on May 5, love you sista & hope you stay in school, from Chat, Notorious, Kentrelle, & the rest of the Dixon family... Happy Belated Easter to Notorious, Kentrelle & Elijah. Love you all, from Chat.

Happy Birthdays to Trudy Nell on April 1 & Teyjah Farmer on April 12, from the Jackson Family.

Happy Birthday to “Yo-Chito” on May 24, from Mom & Dad, sistas & brothers, Aunty Chris, Moshi Monte, Mamo Linda... Also, Happy Birthday to Shondria on May 30, from Chinese, kids, brother, sista, & mom... Happy Belated Birthday Chinese on April 1, from the kids, Shony, Chris, Monte, & Linda... Happy Birthday to our wonderful mother & mamo, Linda Chickaway, on April 15. With lots of love from Monte, Chris, Shony, grandkids, & Chinese.

Happy Birthday to my cousin, Arman D. Jefferson, on April 15.

Happy Birthday to our brother, Thomas Jim Jr., on April 22, from your brothers & sisters... Happy Birthday to Thomas R. Jim Jr., on April 22, from your sister & her kids.

Happy Birthday to our friend Lindsey “Boo Big Wil” Wilson on April 22, from friends F9, F10, F11.

Happy Birthday to Tanneisha Charlie in April. Have a good birthday “Sista Reann,” from your Auntie Geez!

Happy Birthday to Franshekia “Dice” Tubby on May 14. Have a good birthday sister, from your sister Geez!

Happy Birthdays to my mother, Nora Nickey on May 10, Brian Shawn on May 25, Brandon Ray on May 15, & Joshua Ray on May 17. Also, Happy Birthday to my cousins, the twins Bryce & Jayce Lee Chapman, on May 16. Wish yall a big one & more. Much love from Mel.

Happy Birthday to my little cousin/sister Ms. Daisy Ann Joe on May 23. Hope you have a great one & wish you many more. Much love from your cousin/sister Mel.

Happy Birthday to my great-uncle Mr. Earl Dave Jim on May 25. Wish you many more. Much love from Melanie & Bryant.

Happy Belated Birthday to Jordan P. Isaac on April 1, from Mommy, Daddy, Mamo, Nana, Jamal, & Jacob.

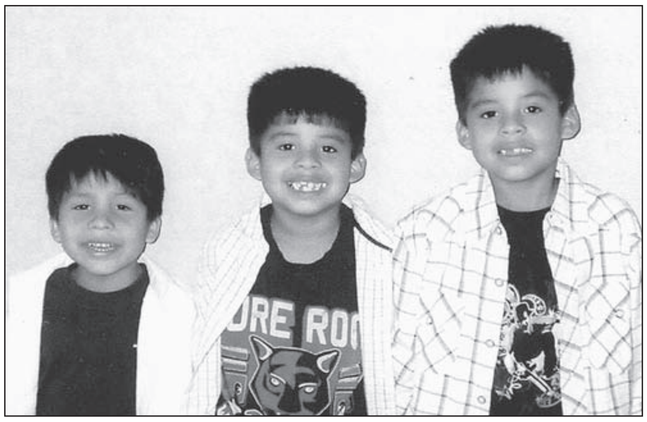
Happy 7th Birthday to Bryceton Jimmie on April 11 & Happy 8th Birthday to Ahshuntia Jimmie on April 27. With love from Mom, Dad & Channing.

Happy Birthday in April to Katie, Kaz, Brennan, Treyvin, & Pop, from Tia, Bryce & Channing.

Happy Belated Birthday to Justin Wesley on April 8, from the Tubby Family.

..................................see BIRTHDAYS, page 32

Happy 3rd Birthday to Katie Marylyn Sockey. She is the daughter of Richard & Marion Sockey of the Standing Pine Community. Her grandparents are Harrison & Mary Ben of the Standing Pine Community & the late Edmund & Evelyn Martin of Pearl River.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TWINS!

On March 26, Cody (center) & Keyan Roach (right) turned 8 years old. We love you all! From Braxton (pictured left), Mom, Dad, & the rest of the family.

Happy 8th Birthday to Malakai Charlie on May 24! Malakai had a good year playing with Philly during the football season, as well as being named Lil’ Brave for his age group at Tucker & being on the honor roll. Keep it going Chitto! We love you! From Mom, Dad, Bo, Mera, Grandma, James, Uncle, Lucas, Renaysia, & Dylan.

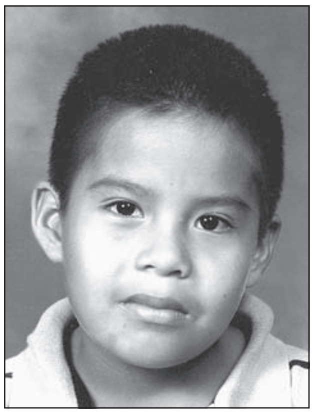
DANNON KADE

Happy 2nd Birthday to our big boy on April 2, with tons of love from mom & dad, all mamaws & papaws, uncles & aunts, & relatives...

A Big Happy 2nd Birthday to Dannon Kade John, from the “Tucker Circus Clowns” Kamden, Jordyn, Cristen, Alyssa, & Melody. We love you verrrry much Nanners!

Happy 3rd Birthday to Taelan Jordell on May 17, 2010! Love always from Mom, Dad, Mamo, Papo, Cousins Jaliah, ReAnna, Kam, & Shayna, Aunties Arrah, Alexis & Erin.

Happy 1st Birthday to our beautiful daughter, Zayna Hudson, on May 12. With lots of love from Mom & Dad, Kage, Jamiya, Mamo & Papo Dixon, uncles, & cousins.



Happy Belated Birthday to my handsome man Trey, who turned 9 on April 12! Best wishes & continue to do well in school. Love, Mom & Dad.

Happy 10th Birthday to Dachele, from Mom, Dad, Deric Jr., Deedra, DaTrece, Grandma Louise, & Aunt Nellie, always with love.

Happy 6th Birthday to Logan Miles! Love you, from Mom, Daddy, sisters, grandparents, & the rest of the family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Miss Denise Leann Denson on April 9, with lots of love from Mommy, Bana Jr., Kayleb, Aaliyah, mamo Laura, aunties Asha, Kayla, your uncles Jern, Ced, & your cousins KeShaun & Choo-Choo! We love you Chinese!

BIRTHDAYS .... continued from page thirty-one

Happy Belated Birthday to Teyia on April 20. Love from Mom, Dad, Keya, & your family.

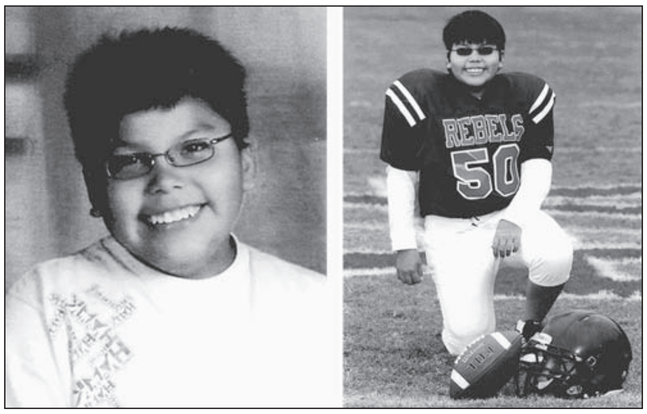
To my daughter who will turn 20 years old on May 7, Domina Nicole Ben, I just want to say “thank you” so much for all that you do. I know that my thanks are far too few. I really do love you & I know that I don’t say that enough. For me those words are real tough. I wish I could express all that I feel but for me you know that’s a big deal. Have a Great Birthday! I’m thinking of you & I hope that my feelings are getting through. HAPPY BIRTHDAY Mina! From Mom, Henry & your baby brother, Justin Bryce.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Connor Reese Jimmie on May 7. We love you Reese! Love, Mom, Dad & the rest of the family.

To my niece/sister, Shauna A. Jefferson, Happy Birthday on May 9. Don’t go over the limit. Hope you have a great day. From Steph, Mina, Justin, & Henry... Birthday wishes go out to my great-nieces, Ms. Sharrisa Jefferson on May 18 who will turn 14 & Ms. Jalane Kendall Willis on May 27 who will turn a year old. From Steph, Justin, Mina, & Henry.

Happy Birthday to a wonderful lady, our mother & mamo, Laura J. Chickaway, on May 2. With lots of love, from your kids, Asha, Kate, Kayla, Ced, Jern, & your grandkids, KeShaun, Alex, Chinese, & Boo.

Happy 71st Birthday to Melba Jefferson on May 28! We love you! From Sylvia, Synchi, Mel, BJ, Weese, & the rest of the family.



Happy 12th Birthday to BJ on May 15. We love you son, brother, uncle, grandson. You are everything to us! Love, Mom, Synchi, Mel, Weese, & the rest of the family.

Choctaw
Community
News

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May 2010

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Happy Belated Birthday to Bryson Tashun Smith, who turned 4 years old on Feb. 12. We love you so much from Mommy, Mario, Bates, Mamo, Papo, & the rest of the Henry family. Also, Happy 6th Birthday to my nephew, Kazden Drace, on April 3, Brennan Lyle who turned 4 on April 13, & my precious niece Katie Bear who turned 8 on April 16. Happy Birthday to my wonderful mother Deborah Henry on April 26. I love you mother! Lastly, Happy Birthday to Elias Braden who turned 14 on April 29.

Happy Mother’s Day

Happy Mothers Day to our momma Letina V. Willis. You’re the best. Love always, Nakeema, Annisah & Telinah in Ada, Okla.

Happy Mothers Day in May to my beautiful, loving wife, Mrs. Lillie Rue Shoemake. I love you & miss you. We’ll be together real soon. I love you always, your loving husband, Mr. Jay Shoemake... Happy Mothers Day to my sister-in-law, Mrs. Vera Ann Jefferson. May you & Lil enjoy this special day! With much respect, your brother-in-law, Jay Shoemake.

Happy Mother’s Day to Lonie Comby. Without you, I don’t know where we would be at today. But with a little help from you, we made it this far & for that we just want to say thank you. HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY from Mina, Justin & Steph.

Happy 26th Wedding Anniversary to Jerry & Patricia Willis on May 24. Hope you two have a great day, from your family.

Congrats to Amanda & Toby Hickman on the birth of their baby boy, Tobias Journy Hickman. From Shonie, Jamal, Jordan, Jacob, & NaNa.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 6 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 JUNE 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Nightly entertainment at 61st Choctaw Indian Fair

CHOCTAW, Miss. - Audiences are in for a treat this year at the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair in beautiful Choctaw, Miss., on July 14-17, 2010.

Beginning Wednesday, July 14 at 7 p.m., don't miss your chance to see Choctaw traditions and culture at its finest at the annual Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant as contestants vie for the highly-coveted title of Choctaw Indian Princess.

"Choctaw Journey," a captivating new drama play chronicling the rich history

see ENTERTAINERS, pg. 6

The Four Tops

Tracy Lawrence

Sara Evans

Shane Yellowbird

The Lost Trailers

Proposed Bogue Homa satellite casino facility: jobs, revenue, smart development

In a 9 to 8 vote on May 19, the Choctaw Tribal Council tabled Mi̱ko Beasley Denson's proposal to build a satellite gaming facility in the Bogue Homa community in Jones County, Miss.

Plans for the facility call for 750 slot machines and a snack bar in an approximately 27,000 square foot building, which will look similar to the original Silver Star facility.

Mi̱ko Denson met with Tribal members in the Bogue Homa community on May 6 to hear their hopes and concerns for the facility. An overwhelming majority of attendees support the expansion of the resort into Bogue Homa, but were concerned about a proposed site that was too close to homes and might present a danger to children in the community.

Mi̱ko Denson requested that planners review another site and determined that the final location presented to the Tribal Council should be a location off of Choctaw Road, away from homes and play areas.

Innovations Group, a consulting firm with expertise in gaming, projects that the facility will provide a minimum of 250 new jobs.

The location of the facility, in Jones County near the population center of Hattiesburg and near a major interstate on the way to the Mississippi Coast, make Bogue Homa

see BOGUE HOMA, pg. 6

Code Talkers visit Tribe

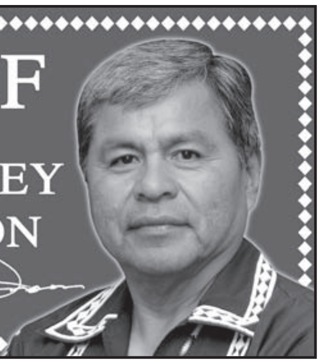
Three Navajo Code Talkers recently visited the Tribe & enjoyed lunch with Tribal elders at the Elderly Activity Center. From left are Choctaw Tribal Veterans Coordinator Sammie Wilson, Samuel Tso, Elderly Activity Center Director Mary John, Albert Smith, Standing Pine Tribal elder Jim Willis, & Bill Toledo.

CHOCTAW, Miss. - Three members of the renowned Navajo Code Talkers, Samuel Tso, Bill Toledo, and Albert Smith - along with Tso's wife and daughter, Ann and Yvonne Tso - visited the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on Friday, May 21. They toured the reservation, visited with officials at the Office of Economic Development, Cultural Preservation Program, and the Elderly Activity Center.

The Navajo Code Talkers was a group of young Navajo men recruited by Phillip Johnston to help the U.S. military fight enemy forces in the Pacific theater during World War II. Because of the complexity of the Navajo language, Japanese intelligence was unable to break the code. The use of this code saved many lives and was pivotal in drawing the Pacific conflict to a close.

The visitors enjoyed their visit and were very impressed with the achievements of the Tribe.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MIKO BEASLEY DENSON



Beasley Denson

Distribution on July 6th

In this economy we have had to be very resourceful. Our Tribe's situation reminds me of when I was growing up in Standing Pine. We didn't have much and, if we weren't successful hunting, sometimes we would go hungry.

My cousin Charles and I usually tried to kill a squirrel or two and that would make a good dinner. One hunt we only had a single shotgun shell. Charlie wasn't a great shot and when he missed with it we had to figure out another way to get our dinner out of the tree it had run up in.

Charlie had a few matches and with those we tried to smoke the squirrel out. We couldn't get enough smoke up inside the tree to make it work so we had to try something else. We sharpened a forked stick and ran it up in the tree and started twisting it until we felt the squirrel move and then we speared it. This is the kind of craftiness our Tribe must rely on today.

It is also the kind of craftiness and creativity we have used again to be able to make this next distribution payment during the worst economy since the Great Depression. *(See the distribution notice on pages 3-5.)* And, again, we will do so without borrowing money.

I am very proud of the members of my administration who helped me make this happen and, I am sad to say, there are some who would have rather seen Tribal members not get the distribution and go hungry than to see my administration succeed in pulling this off. These people are obstructionists who have tried to work against me in hopes of scoring political points at the expense of fellow Tribal members. Like the last distribution in December, they said it couldn't be done. They hoped we couldn't do it and, again, we proved them wrong.

Checks are available to be picked up at the Silver Star on July 6th between 9:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. All distribution checks not picked up before 6:00 P.M. on July 6, 2010 will be mailed.

Bogue Homa Visit and the Proposed Casino

On May 6th, I traveled to visit with our brothers and sisters in Bogue Homa. We discussed many issues and tribal affairs for several hours. The majority of the discussion centered on the casino I have proposed we build on our land there.

When the economy is poor and everyone is doing everything they can to keep their heads above water it is critical that we are aggressive and take every opportunity we get to make money. A casino in Bogue Homa is just such an opportunity.

To have made it this far since the housing bubble collapse and the stock market crash without large reductions in the work force and cuts in services to Tribal members has taken a great deal of creativity and resolve.

We are the envy of, and a model for, many tribes and businesses across the country. Even with all the debt remaining from the construction of the Golden Moon, with the illegal gaming in Alabama siphoning off large portions of our casino revenues and with our Tribe growing rapidly, my administration has been able to maintain employment levels and the levels of funding for housing, education and health care that Tribal members have come to expect. However, as this recession

..........continued next page

Lee Farmer, standing center, asks about the effects of the proposed casino on the surrounding environment.

LEFT, *Bogue Homa residents came together at the facility building to discuss tribal affairs, the proposed casino and eat.* **RIGHT**, *General Paul Harvey, CEO of Pearl River Resort, answered community members questions about the satellite facility & the jobs it would bring to Bogue Homa.*

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Bradley Isaac .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, JUNE 4, AT 12 NOON.

Mi̱ko Denson, left, discusses the casino project with Bogue Homa residents during a community-wide meeting on May 6.

continues into its third year, it is getting harder and harder to identify the additional revenues we need. We've got to make the best use of our resources to support our growth and we've got to play the economic development game the way any smart business would.

I commissioned a feasibility study using a well-respected firm with experience in gaming operations and it found that our land in Jones County would be a good location for the new enterprise. This satellite gaming facility in Bogue Homa is the best way to generate the additional revenues our Tribe requires. The study tested the profitability of a new casino over five years. It would resemble the original Silver Star but without restaurants or table games - only slot machines (approximately 750).

Bogue Homa is far enough away from Choctaw that the facility would not hurt business here. It would draw from Hattiesburg, the surrounding area and highway traffic going to and from the coast. The study also found that a facility like our 27,000 square foot design coupled with a low overhead operation like the one we have planned would pay for itself very quickly, possibly as soon as one year. After that, it could contribute significant profits to our Tribal bank account.

To continue making future distributions without borrowing money, employing as many Tribal members as possible and funding services to Tribal members, it is critical that we take advantage of opportunities like this one.

At the meeting on May 18th, Tribal Council voted to table this proposal in order to have more time to examine how it would be financed. I can understand this. It is important we are deliberate before borrowing money, even if it is money that will be used to make money. But I hope between now and the next vote on June 8th, the council members who voted to postpone moving ahead with the plan, will do their research, examine the details and documents that have been provided to them and make the right and necessary decision to move the Tribe forward financially. If not, cuts in services to Tribal members will be the only option unless the national economy turns around drastically and quickly.

I appreciate a cautious, deliberate approach to financing this project. For too long our self-determination has been hand cuffed by the interest we still owe on the money borrowed to build the Golden Moon. This is an opportunity we need to take advantage of quickly. To delay or obstruct this plan just to deny my administration the credit for finding the additional revenues we need is not acceptable, and, although it may be what some people would consider a shrewd political strategy, doing what's best for the Tribe is a better one.

I was elected on a platform of Chata First, and as long as I have the privilege of serving this Tribe, I will continue to uncover and aggressively pursue opportunities, such as the one in Bogue Homa, that further the economic interests of every Tribal member.

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

There are no Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries to report in the June issue.

NOTICE OF DISTRIBUTION

Of Funds to Enrolled Members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Distribution Date: July 6, 2010

PROCEDURES FOR DISTRIBUTION IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Distribution Date: JULY 6, 2010. The Tribe is not requiring anyone to accept this payment, and the recipient may refuse it; nor is the Tribe entering into a contract to make the payment or guarantee the payment. The distribution check must be refused on the date of distribution for checks picked up by the applicant. For distribution checks mailed out, the applicant must refuse the benefit and return the check before JULY 30, 2010. Any distribution check not refused at pick-up or not returned JULY 30, 2010, will be considered accepted by the recipient and a 1099 Tax Form will be issued as required by federal law. All distribution checks not picked up before **6:00 P.M. on JULY 6, 2010** will be mailed.

2. It is the intention of the Tribal Council that payments for minor children and dependents be spent on them, or the family as a whole, and that their needs not be neglected.

3. The IRS considers per capita payment distributions or in-kind goods or services received in lieu of a distribution check personal income. Recipients should remember to report these payments on their Form 1040 when they file their income taxes for the calendar year in which they received the payment. A 1099 Tax Form will be issued.

4. These payments may also affect the eligibility of persons and families for certain federal programs, including, but not limited to, food stamps, SSI, General Assistance, Head Start, WIC, Low-Income Energy, and other programs. It is the recipient's responsibility to check with the administering agency of that program to see what effect the payment may have on eligibility or amounts of assistance.

5. Members of the Tribe, parents, guardians, or custodians of minors living on or off the reservation whose address, marital status or living situation, and dependents have not changed since the DECEMBER 2009 distribution and who received a check at that time DO NOT HAVE TO MAKE APPLICATION for this distribution. Eligible tribal members who have moved WILL NEED to submit a change of address form (attached) for all members of their household affected. Eligible tribal members, who have altered marital or living status, become 18 years of age, have changes in dependents or did not receive a check in the DECEMBER 2009 distribution WILL NEED to submit a new Application for this distribution as soon as possible. Some delay

....see DISTRIBUTION NOTICE, pg. 4

DISTRIBUTION NOTICE .... continued from page three

in disbursing the check may occur in situations where the changes in address or living situation have not been forwarded to the Tribal Enrollment Office.

6. Unclaimed Distribution Checks

If a distribution check sent pursuant to Title XV, Chapter 4 of the Tribal Code is returned or otherwise not claimed; it shall be retained by the issuer for two years after the date it was originally mailed, after which it shall be turned over to the Secretary/Treasurer for disbursement into the general revenue fund of the Tribe. This section shall not apply to distribution checks that are issued to members of the Tribe who are under 18 years of age.

7. Re-Issued Checks

In order for the Finance Office to re-issue a check that was lost, stolen or never received, which has not been cashed, a notarized affidavit must be completed and returned to the Finance Office. The affidavit may be picked up at the Finance Office or they can be mailed. Checks for notarized affidavits received in the Finance Office will be in the vendor check run of the following Wednesday or Friday.

8. For any information on the distribution, write or call: Earlie Williams, Distribution Manager, 601-650-1521, or Cindy John, 601-650-1696; Tribal Office Building, P.O. Box 6090 - Choctaw Branch, Choctaw, MS 39350; Fax 601-650-1625; E-mail address: Ewilliams@choctaw.org or Cjohn@choctaw.org

DISTRIBUTION NOTICE

The Tribal Council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) passed a resolution on MAY 19, 2010, which provides that each member of the MBCI enrolled on the tribal census roll at the Tribal Enrollment Office, Tribal Office Building, is eligible to receive a payment of $500 in tribal funds for the JULY 6, 2010 distribution. The Tribe will issue a separate check for each person, regardless of age.

Application Process:

Members of the Tribe who are competent adults 18 years of age and over living on or near the reservation who have completed the application process (see **Important Note** on the preceding page) need to report to the Convention Center, Silver Star Resort & Casino, in Pearl River to pick up and sign for their and their children's checks on JULY 6, 2010, from 9 A.M. until 6 P.M. Checks not picked up will be mailed JULY 7, 2010 to them at their current address on file. ONE valid form of identification (driver's license, tribal I.D. or Social Security Card) MUST be presented by the applicant in order to pick up his/her check at the Convention Center.

All new applications submitted must include the person's tribal roll number and social security number. If the applicant does not have a roll number, the applicant will need to contact Ms. Angela Stevens or Ms. Virginia Keams, Tribal Enrollment Office, Tribal Office Building, 601-656-5251, ext. 1504 or 1575. Members of the Tribe on or off the reservation who claim dependent children in their household (and/or any elderly, infirm, mentally impaired and other people in their household for whom they are custodians) will receive checks made out jointly to themselves and the dependent. Any changes in dependent children or custodian status since the DECEMBER 2009 distribution must be submitted on a new "Application for Tribal Funds" (Application).

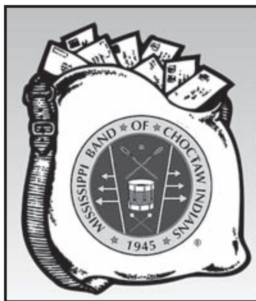
New applicants (enrolled members who have not made prior application and eligible newborns) living on or near the Choctaw Reservation (in counties with reservation lands) must have already completed and returned the Application no later than 4:30 p.m. JUNE 4, 2010, if they wish to receive a check on JULY 6, 2010. A delay in disbursement may occur in these situations where no Application has been filed yet. All questions regarding claims to dependents must be resolved prior to giving out the check. For each tribal member claimed in the household, a tribal roll number and social security number must be cited. If you do not have or do not know these numbers, contact Ms. Angela Stevens or Ms. Virginia Keams at the Tribal Office. (See "Determination of Eligibility").

Already enrolled members with changes in their status from the DECEMBER 2009 Distribution need to have submitted those changes on a new Application. Newborns with a birth date on or prior to midnight, JULY 6, 2010, have until 12:00 Noon, JULY 30, 2010, for receipt by the Enrollment Office of their application.

Persons living on or near the Choctaw Reservation who for reasonable cause have failed to apply before MAY 31, 2010, may apply until JULY 30, 2010. A delay in disbursement may occur in these situations of late Application filing. If returning the Application by mail, send it to: Application for Tribal Distribution, P.O. Box 6090, Choctaw, MS 39350.

Tribal members have until JULY 30, 2010, to file your

..........continued next page


MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
1945

FROM THE MAILBAG

APPRECIATES EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this time & give my appreciation to the following people for their time & effort in helping me continue my educational goals at East Central Community College & completing the two years required in the field of Hotel/Restaurant Management Technologies & attaining an associates applied science (AAS).

I give my gratitude to Mi̱ko Denson & the tribal council. Without their support, it wouldn't be possible to continue my education. All the people at the Choctaw Vocational Education Program, without their assistants, supplies, & tools, my goals wouldn't have been met.

To Mrs. Joyce Hill, who put up with met when I needed to use the computer room. To Mrs. Bernadine Dixon for making sure that I needed help with any of my courses & making sure I made it to school. Without her assistance it wouldn't be possible for me to be the HRT Student of the Year for 2010 & graduating with honors! I thank all the staff at the Choctaw Tribal Scholarship for their assistance that I continued my education when I changed my major. I thank Mrs. O'Neill, my advisor at East Central Community College, for making sure I was on the right course in completing my field of studies.

There are many others I would like to give thanks for any assistance they did for me in making sure as like getting to school & etc. However, I can't remember all that helped me within the two years of my endeavors & you know who you are & I give special thanks to you from the bottom of my heart & that God bless you in pursuit of your happiness.

I thank you for taking this time to give thanks to everyone for all the hard work you have done that God bless you all. Thank you all for believing in me that I can reach to a higher education & that all things are possible with the assistance of the higher power of God.

- Ramon Agurrie, Sr.

Application. This will allow those Choctaw tribal members serving in the military and others living outside or institutionalized outside the reservation sufficient time to file. Checks for those late arrival Applications will be mailed to individuals not later than 30 days after receipt and approval of the completed Application.

Children in Divorced Families

The Tribe has encountered some difficulty in the past distributions with both divorced parents claiming the same children. If the residence of the children has changed since the DECEMBER 2009 distribution, the custodial divorced parent will need to mail a copy of the court order showing they have custody of the children.

Court Orders

Any orders of the tribal court restraining the issuance or requiring a check to be reissued to another party must be received to Tribal Court by 4:30 P.M. MAY 28, 2010. Any restraint order received by this date will prevent a check from being disbursed to the individual served by the order. The deadline for requesting assistance from Legal Defense was Friday, May 21, 2010 at 12:00 noon. Checks reissued under Court Orders will be ready after 14 working days.

Payments to Newborns

Eligibility for this distribution is restricted to persons born prior to prior to midnight, JULY 6, 2010. Parents of newborns have until 12 Noon JULY 30, 2010, to submit the enrollment AND Distribution applications for their newborns to the Enrollment Office. Accommodation will be made for the acquisition of birth certificates and social security cards after receipt of the completed Application.

18 Years of Age

Those enrolled members of the Tribe who reach their 18th birthday on or before JULY 6, 2010, should submit a new application if they do not want their parents or custodian listed jointly on the check with them.

Vesting of Right to Distribution

An individual's right to distribution shall vest at 12:01 a.m. on JUNE 6, 2010. Unless an individual is alive at the time distribution vests, he or she and his or her heirs shall not be entitled to the distribution.

Payment Process

Checks issued to competent adults should be ready when adults appear on JULY 6, 2010, to sign for them. Checks issued to children and dependents will be made payable to both the child or dependent and the parent, guardian or custodian. Minors with children are nevertheless minors for purposes of this distribution. If the claimed child or dependent has lived in a household for more than 90 days and the parent, guardian or custodian has not lived in that household, the Tribe reserves the right to issue the check to the child or dependent and to the head of household in which the child or dependent now resides. In the case of foster children, checks shall be issued to the Social Service Agency, who shall re-issue the check in a timely manner to the foster parents on behalf of the foster child except in those instances where foster parent status has been revoked. The Tribe also reserves the right to issue a check of any child who has been removed from his home by a social service agency to the custodian or to the social service agency for the benefit of the child.

Determination of Eligibility

Membership in the MBCI is restricted by the Tribal Constitution to persons: (1) on the Tribal census roll of 1940; (2) persons of 1/2 or greater degree Mississippi Choctaw blood quantum born to any enrolled member. It is the intent of the Tribal Council to provide a payment only to enrolled members of the MBCI. If an eligible, non-enrolled member is disenrolling from a different tribe in order to enroll with the MBCI, the signed disenrollment action must be received by the Enrollment Office by the date of the Council Resolution authorizing a distribution in order to receive a check for that distribution. If you or your dependents meet the criteria listed above and are not enrolled, you should contact Ms. Angela Stevens or Ms. Virginia Keams at the Tribal Enrollment Office, Tribal Office, P.O. Box 6365, Choctaw, MS 39350, telephone: 601-656-5251 ext. 1504 or 1575 to complete the enrollment process. Persons needing to establish paternity should contact Choctaw Legal Defense at 601-389-1940.

Appeals

In the event that a person wants to appeal not receiving a distribution payment, or if there are eligibility questions, the Application and its circumstances will be reviewed by a three-member panel that will review the application and other records and render a decision. The panel will consist of Linda Williams, Chairperson, Mae Bell, member and Gilbert Thompson, member. Those wishing to appeal should contact Linda Williams at 601-650-1545.

ZIP Public Transit route to cease

CHOCTAW, Miss. - The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) has announced that the ZIP Public Transit route will cease beginning Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

The ZIP bus route commenced in February 2005, as a rural public transportation system created in partnership with the Community Development Partnership, the MBCI, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). The route has offered safe, affordable, and reliable transportation to locals and visitors alike.

The ZIP route had seven ZipZones, or bus stops, including Pearl River Resort, Williams Brothers, Inc., Canal Place Shopping Center, Wal-Mart Supercenter, The Citizen's Bank, Jerome Tank Season 2 Season, and The Coffee Bean restaurant. Most recently, the bus had been operating Mondays through Saturdays 6:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

The Tribe extends its appreciation for the encouragement, support, and Federal matching funds that MDOT has provided to the ZIP program since its inception.

The Choctaw Transit Program has stated that other transit services provided by the Tribe will not be affected.

For more information, contact Billy Robertson at 601-650-7429.

MBCI Tribal Justice Programs apply for $3.3 million

The Department of Justice asked each tribe in the United States to submit a single application for all available Department of Justice (DOJ) Tribal grant programs under the FY 2010 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS).

The advantage of this coordinated process is when DOJ reviews a single application from a tribe it will have a better understanding of the overall public safety needs.

The CTAS grant had ten Purpose Areas that cover a vast array of public safety and justice needs on tribal lands.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) applied for eight of those Purpose Areas. Most tribes only applied for two or three.

Multiple MBCI departments and divisions worked cooperatively for two months to achieve this monumental task.

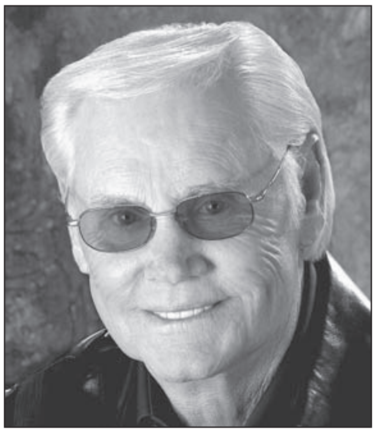
If all eight areas that MBCI

.............see GRANT, pg. 7

News From The Pearl River Resort®

Choctaw, MS

George Jones to perform at Resort July 2


George Jones

CHOCTAW, Miss. - One of the biggest country music stars of all-time, George Jones, will perform live at Pearl River Resort! Jones will take the stage at the Silver Star Convention Center on Friday, July 2, at 8 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale and are $25 and $35.

Jones is described by many as the "greatest living country singer," and he has enjoyed a fabulous career that shows no sign of slowing down. The Texas-born singer and songwriter has racked up a staggering 150 hit songs, over a dozen chart-topping No.1 hits, received numerous Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music Awards, and was a 1992 inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

His hits include country favorites and classics such as "White Lightning," "Tender Years," "She Still Thinks I Care," "Walk Through This World With Me," "The Grand Tour," "Still Doin' Time," "I Always Get Lucky With You," "The Race is On" and his signature, Grammy-winning song, "He Stopped Loving Her Today."

For more information and tickets, contact the Pearl River Resort by visiting www.pearlriverresort.com or calling 1.866.44PEARL. Guests must be at least 21 years old to attend.

Pearl River Resort, located in Choctaw, Miss., is the Southern United States' first comprehensive luxury gaming resort. The resort features the Silver Star and Golden Moon, two exciting hotel/casinos with nearly 4,000 slot machines, nearly 100 table games, 1,074 hotel rooms, 10 restaurants, European spa facilities, shopping and live entertainment. Also featured is The Dancing Rabbit Golf Club with two championship golf courses and Geyser Falls Water Theme Park.

Pearl River Resort is a development of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, a federally recognized, self-governing tribe with approximately 9,600 members living on or near reservation land. For more information, visit www.pearlriverresort.com.

BOGUE HOMA .... continued from page one

the only community that could support the casino and generate significant revenue for the Tribe without taking business away from the Silver Star and the Golden Moon.

The proposed facility would pay for itself very quickly and provide the Tribe with much needed revenue in today's tough economic times. The alternative to finding new revenue sources is cutting services to Tribal members.

"We hired a group with expertise in gaming operations and the feasibility study conducted by Innovations Group said that our land in Bogue Homa was strategically located and would generate significant revenue for the Tribe," said Mi̱ko Denson. "We've got to make the best use of our resources to support our growing Tribe. We've got to play the economic development game the way any business would."

Tribal Biologist Mitzi Reed conducted a field study and determined that the project presents no significant impact on threatened or endangered species.

A cultural resource survey was also conducted by Ken Carleton to ensure that no culturally significant archeological sites were on the property.

The facility will be built on land that has been in trust for the Tribe since 1945 and in accordance with the Compact between the Tribe and the State of Mississippi. As such, no approval is required from local, county or state authorities.

Tribal representatives and staff of the Pearl River Resort have met with county elected officials and will continue to meet with local elected officials to ensure a good working relationship between the Tribe and its neighbors in Jones County.

The Tribal Council is expected to vote on the casino on June 8.

"I hope the Tribal Council members who voted to table the original proposal will decide to vote in favor of the casino. The Tribe's continued financial prosperity requires that each of us vote for the good of the overall Tribe, not just for our own benefit. Yes, the casino will be in Bogue Homa, but the revenue it generates will serve all of us," said Secretary Treasurer Lola Parkerson.

ENTERTAINERS... continued from page one

of the Choctaw people, will be performed on the amphitheater stage on Thursday, July 15 at 7 p.m. Music legends The Four Tops hit the stage at 8:30 p.m. For almost 60 years, The Four Tops have been thrilling audiences with hit songs such as "Baby, I Need Your Loving" and "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch)."

Native American recording artist Shane Yellowbird takes center stage at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 16. Yellowbird is a rising star in the Canadian country music scene and has received many awards and accolades, including a Canadian Country Music Award. He is followed at 8:30 p.m. by country music superstar Tracy Lawrence. Lawrence's hits include "If the World Had a Front Porch" and "Paint Me a Birmingham." For fans of country music, this will be a night to remember!

On Saturday, July 17 at 7 p.m., The Lost Trailers will take the stage. This up-and-coming band of five performers has built up a legion of fans, and they are sure to have the audience in party mode with their hit song "Holler Back!" Closing out the Fair's nightly entertainment at 8:30 p.m. will be country music star Sara Evans. Her breakout album, Born to Fly, was certified 2x Platinum. With hits such as "No Place That Far" and "Suds in the Bucket," the audience will definitely have an awesome time!

Don't forget Family Night on Tuesday, July 13, starting at 5 p.m. and ending at 11 p.m. The night features local gospel talents at the Dance Ground, stickball games and enjoy reduced carnival ride rates Tuesday night only.

In addition to the spectacular entertainment the Fair has to offer, fairgoers can enjoy four fun-filled days of Choctaw culture and spirit including Tribal arts, crafts, dances, foods, and the thrilling action of World Championship Stickball. The Fair offers fun for young and old alike, from exhilarating rides and contests to incredible nightly performances. There's something for everyone at the Choctaw Indian Fair!

Tickets for all acts and other fair activities excluding

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CHOCTAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Mouth guards protect the smile

It's easy to take some things for granted until they're suddenly gone. Have you ever thought about how it would feel if you lost one or two of your front teeth? You'd probably avoid smiling. It would be uncomfortable talking with someone face-to-face. It wouldn't be easy pronouncing certain words. And how about eating an apple? Until your teeth are gone, you might not miss them.

Each year, thousands of teens get hurt on the playing field, the basketball court, or while skateboarding, biking or during other activities. Blows to the face in nearly every sport can injure your teeth, lips, cheeks, and tongue.

A properly fitted mouth guard, or mouth protector, is an important piece of athletic gear that can protect your teeth and smile. You may have seen them used in contact sports, such as football, boxing and ice hockey.

However, you don't have to be on the football field to benefit from a mouth guard. New findings in sports dentistry show that even in non-contact sports such as gymnastics, rollerblading, and field hockey, mouth guards help protect teeth. Many experts recommend that a mouth guard be worn for any recreational activity that poses a risk of injury to the mouth.

There are three types of mouth guards: The ready-made, or stock, mouth guard; the mouth formed "boil and bite" mouth guard; and the custom-made mouth guard made by your dentist. All three mouth guards provide protection but vary in comfort and cost.

The most effective mouth guard should have several features: It should be resilient, tear resistant and comfortable. It should fit properly, be durable and easy to clean, and not restrict your speech and breathing.

Generally, a mouth guard covers only the upper teeth, but in some cases the dentist will instead make a mouth guard for the lower teeth. Your dentist can suggest the right mouth guard for you.

Here are some suggestions for taking good care of your mouth guard: Before and after each use, rinse it with cold water or with an antiseptic mouth rinse. You can clean it with toothpaste and a toothbrush, too. When it's not used, place your mouth guard in a firm, perforated container. This permits air circulation and helps prevent damage.

Avoid high temperatures, such as hot water, hot surfaces or direct sunlight, which can distort the mouth guard. Check it for tears, holes and poor fit. A mouth guard that's torn or in bad shape can irritate your mouth and lessen the amount of protection it provides.

Have regular dental checkups and bring your mouth guard along so the dentist can make sure it's still in good condition. Don't take your teeth for granted. Protect you smile with a mouth guard.

CHC parking lot to be paved this summer

The Choctaw Health Center (CHC) parking lot will be completely renovated this summer with a HRSA Grant. Construction will begin around July 1. Completion will be around August 10. Dates will vary due to weather & the contractor. Please cooperate with all signs & construction personnel during this project. We apologize for the inconvenience but the improvements will be worth it. Please call the CHC administration for any additional information at 601-389-6240.

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carnival rides are: $15 for adult season passes, $10 for adult day passes, $10 for student season passes and $5 for student day passes. Children five and under get in free. To learn more about all the Fair has to offer, call 601-650-7450 or visit www.choctawindianfair.com.

GRANT.. continued from page five

applied for are awarded, the benefit to MBCI would be substantial in the number of jobs created or saved and the services provided.

Ultimately, 10 jobs could be created and six jobs saved.

Behavioral Health will benefit by having a clinical services coordinator for adults, a clinical services coordinator for youth, and a new case manager.

The IT Department will benefit by having a PTS/Database Coordinator for police and courts data collection and information maintenance.

The Attorney General's Office will benefit by enhancing departmental operations.

Children's Advocacy Center will benefit by having a parent educator, a youth empowerment coordinator, and a youth advocate.

Family Violence and Victims' Services will benefit by having a women's advocate/educator, a domestic violence intervention group facilitator, and an adult protection specialist

Tribal Courts will benefit by having a part-time criminal court domestic violence judge and a full-time domestic violence court clerk.

The Boys & Girls Club will benefit by developing a media project that will document the lives of Choctaw youth and their community through a partnership with the nationally recognized ”Native Lens” film production company and local project coordinator.

The grant application totaled $3,331,572 with an Indirect Cost benefit to the Tribe of $407,466.

Dealing with Diabetes

Are you a person with DIABETES? Do you know a loved one or friend that is? If so, you, your friend or loved one may need the services offered at Diabetes Wellness Day!

What is Diabetes Wellness Day? It is a day devoted to the care & services of people with DIABETES. Currently, Diabetes Wellness Day is held on the first Wednesday of each month, the same day as Diabetes Retinopathy Clinic. It is several departments of the Choctaw Health Department working together to provide a one-stop-shop type of service to you while you wait to be seen for your retinopathy exam.

Diabetes management is very important to your good health & wellness & Choctaw Health Department wants to be a part of your success with Diabetes management.

What can I expect to happen at Diabetes Wellness Day? It all depends on what services you need. Labwork, immunizations, blood pressure screening, diabetes foot exam, intervention screening (alcohol, depression, domestic violence, tobacco) diabetes education, exercise education, nutrition education, dental exam & diabetes retinopathy exam are offered. A medical provider is also available if there is a need for immediate follow-up.

Sign up at the window of the Diabetes Management Center & you will be given your own flow sheet of what services you need. Several CHD staff will assist you through the wellness day stations & to answer questions you may have.

Can I be seen at Diabetes Wellness Day if I don't have an appointment? Yes, you can but we encourage you to make an appointment so we can be prepared for your visit. Contact Patient Registration to make sure your mailing information is up to date as we will mail your appointment to you.

To be scheduled for Diabetes Retinopathy Clinic & a visit to Diabetes Wellness Day, contact the Choctaw Health Department's Vision Program, Judith Wesley, at 601.389.6329 for an appointment.

Church hosts basketball tourney

The Bogue Chitto Baptist Church held a basketball tournament during Spring Break this year for children ages 11 to 13. We were pleased with the turnout and hope to make this an annual event. The following teams pictured are first and second place winners. (Team member names were unavailable as of press time).

RIGHT, *First place girls coached by Vincent Jefferson*

Second place girls coached by Brian Bell.

First place boys coached by Gary Willis, Jr.

Second place boys coached by Michael Robinson.

Farmers market information

The Choctaw Farmer's Market will open on Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at 8 a.m. The market offers fresh locally grown produce for tribal members as well as the public. The WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Supplemental Food Program allows food vouchers for fruits & vegetables to be used at the market. The elderly and disabled are also eligible to participate.

Any elderly or disabled tribal member who wishes to participate will need to fill out an application at the MBCI WIC office. Please bring identification and proof of disability. Applications are now being accepted.

The market runs from June through early September and is open Tuesday-Thursday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., with a mobile market going out into the communities on Fridays. The market is also open on Saturday mornings.

Nutrition education and activities including cooking demonstrations, fruit & veggie bingo, and a kids market day are planned.

Join us for our first event on Thursday, June 24 for a healthy cooking demonstration & tasty samples from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. by Natalie Byram, Registered Dietitian for WIC.

Contact the MBCI WIC office at 601-389-6337 for any questions.

May 24-30 designated Hurricane Preparedness Week

PEARL - With another hurricane season fast approaching, Mississippi Emergency Management Director Mike Womack wants to remind people to have a plan and emergency supply kit ready before tropical weather approaches our state.

"Residents need to be ready to take care of themselves for up to 72 hours if a major storm makes landfall," Womack said. "It takes time to get assistance to impacted areas, so being prepared is one of the most important

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things any individual or family can do."

Governor Haley Barbour signed a proclamation declaring May 24-28, Mississippi's Hurricane Preparedness Week. The awareness week is held in conjunction with the National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

"Tropical weather of any kind is serious business and we all need to get ready now. Don't wait until a storm enters the Gulf to be prepared," said Gov. Barbour.

MEMA provides hurricane and disaster tips in the preparedness section of its Web site, www.msema.org.

Here are some items you and your family should have in a disaster kit before tropical weather threatens:

- Flashlight and battery-powered radio with extra batteries.
- Canned and non-perishable food.
- Bottled water.
- Toiletry items.
- Pet food and pet supplies.
- Medicine and prescription medication.
- Copies of important family papers and documents.

For more information, go to The National Hurricane Center's Web site at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

MEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, other state agencies and non-profit organizations will provide information and preparedness tips to help residents prepare for the upcoming season. For more information, go to www.msema.org. You can also go to Twitter and Facebook using the keyword MSEMA.

Older Early Childhood children participated in their local elementary school's spring festival as part of a transition process to familiarize them with the elementary school surroundings.

Hapimalla
Okla
Kiliholitobli
Let's Cherish
Our Children
Bless Our
Children

DOECE participants walk in the Child Abuse Awareness Parade in the Pearl River Community on April 14.

DOECE NEWS

April has been an interesting month full of activities for our children at early childhood.

We have begun the process to transition our children who will be eligible for Kindergarten in the fall of 2010. Please make sure to fill out a Release of Records Information sheet in order for us to send copies of your child's verifications to the elementary school of your choice.

All our Head Start and Child Care centers have made transition visits to their local tribal elementary school to introduce the children to the Kindergarten teacher and to let them visit the Kindergarten and Pre-K classrooms.

This is to familiarize them with the elementary school surroundings and staff in order to make their transition to the "big school" that much smoother.

see DOECE NEWS, pg. 10

JOHN & NECIE YORK
FAMILY REUNION

Sunday, July 11, 2010
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tucker Community Facility Building
127 Tucker Facility Rd.
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Please bring a covered dish &
for t-shirt details, contact
khyork@choctaw.org.

Contact Nate at *nharjo@gmail.com* and
sign up on our facebook page.

Is your child ready to learn?
Put in an application for
Early Childhood today!

We provide learning opportunities for child development for children ages 8 weeks to 5 years.

For more information, contact your local Early Childhood Center:
Bogue Chitto 601-656-7224
*Bogue Homa 601-425-4044
Conehatta 601-775-3845
*Crystal Ridge 662-779-0632
Pearl River Day Care 601-656-9221
Pearl River Head Start 601-650-1719
Pearl River Early Head Start 601-389-2899
Red Water 601-298-9282
Standing Pine 601-298-1580
Tucker 601-389-2053
*Immediate enrollment available

DOECE NEWS

continued from page nine

Basketball tournament champions included Cobi Wallace, Mandy Billy, Dustin Wallace, Kevin Allen, Poncho Willis, Clifton Willis, & Kiana Wallace.

Tournament runner up included Deborah Henry, Grant Williams, Sarrica Anderson, Dawnena John, Jo Billie, Daneon Henry, Lathom Williams, & Giovann Dixon.

Our older Early Childhood children also participated in their local elementary school's spring festival. We want to thank all the parents that made the effort to have their child at the spring festival dressed and ready to dance.

On April 14, most of our centers participated in the Child Abuse Awareness Parade, walking to the beat of the drum to draw attention to the plight of child abuse awareness.

On April 30, we held a basketball tournament for Early Childhood parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. It was a great success and we congratulate our winners (pictured right).

The games were all close and we enjoyed watching everyone play, from aunts and uncles, moms and dads, to grandmas and grandpas.

Head Start and Early Head Start are currently accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Go to your local Head Start or Early Head Start and fill one out

Photos taken of Choctaws from 1925 available

The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's National Anthropological Archives has photographs of Choctaws who participated in a project during the summer of 1925.

If interested in obtaining prints of any of these pictures, please send a request to Ms. Vyrtis Thomas at the following address: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, National Anthropological Archives, Museum Support Center, 4210 Silver Hill Rd., Suitland, MD 20746. Telephone number is 301-238-1322.

The cost of a black and white 8 x 10 photograph is $25 each and takes four weeks for delivery. The following photographs of Choctaws in their catalog include:

Henry Jim, Milton Jimmy, Eli Willis, John Charlie, Francis Tubbe, Will Jim, Louisa Jim, Will & Louisa Jim (in front of their home), Will Wilson, Thompson Barney, Katie Joshua, Mole Tubbee, Irving Rockey, Lila Rockey, Dick Tubbee, Jackson M. Jim, David D. Jim, Vardaman Stribling, Jim Gardner, Edward Lewis, Jim Isaac, Wilson Jim, Martha Jim, Kelly Chickaway, Jacob Dausby, Jourden Billy, Will Jimmy, Simon Isaac, Charlie Tubbe, and the Jim family (in front of their home).

NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Students learn the craft of weaving a *kabochcha towwa*

The Choctaw Central High School and Middle School Choctaw literacy students were taught the craft of *Kabochcha Towwa Ikbi* (stickball ball making). The activity took place on April 12-23 as part of a class unit on Choctaw games.

Students learned Choctaw terms for materials and tools used for making the balls and the leather weaving process.

Casey Bigpond, Tribal craftsman assisted by Lorena Alex and Trudy Jimmie of the Cultural Preservation Program, provided the presentations.

Thompson & Smith attend

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LEFT, *Craftsman Casey Bigpond, left, demonstrates weaving techniques for students.* **CENTER**, *Trudy Jimmie, right, watches Trinity Tubby weave leather laces to make a ball.* **RIGHT**, *Handling the leather like a master craftsman, Kyle Cotton is on his way to completing his kabotchcha towwa.*

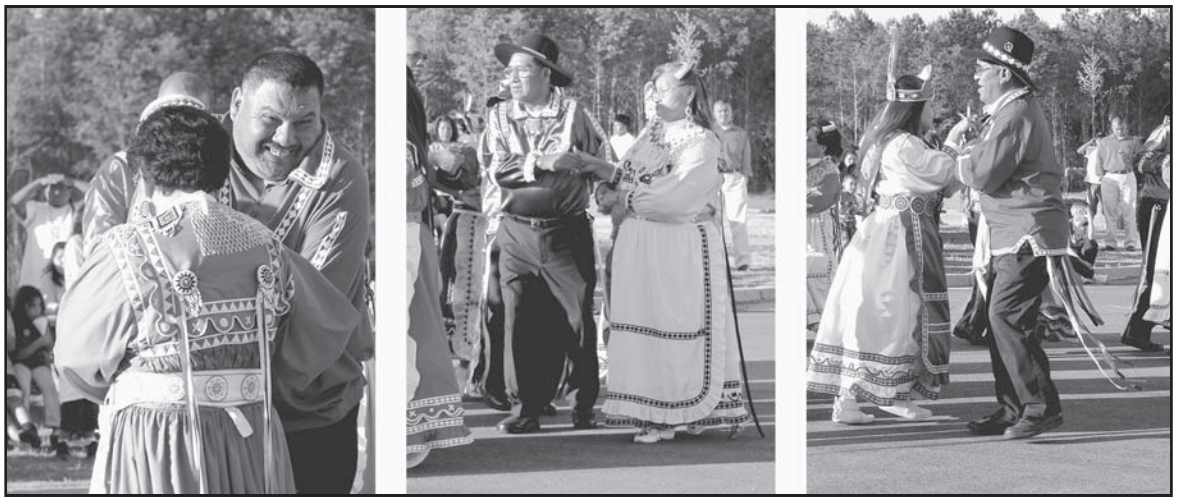
Willis photos to be part of art exhibit

CHOCTAW, Miss. - Choctaw tribal member Andrew Willis Jr., recently had three of his photographs (pictured right) accepted into the "Just Dance" 2010 Juried Invitational Art Exhibit.

Andrew Willis, Jr.

The Greater Jackson Arts Council is sponsoring this exhibit to run in conjunction with the International Ballet Competition to be held this June in Jackson, Miss.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to show the photos of traditional Choctaw dance outside tribal areas," said Willis of the Pearl River Community. "The motion, colors and faces really do express the communicating power of dance."



An opening reception will be held on Thursday, June 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., to open the "Just Dance" exhibit and announce award winners.

The "Just Dance" exhibition will be on display from June 12-June 27 at the Mississippi Arts Center at 201 East Pascagoula in Jackson.

The Arts Center is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is adjacent to the Thalia Mara Hall where the ballet competition will be held.

LEFT, *CPP member Patty Billie reads to the crowd from a book of Choctaw stories compiled by the Tribal Language Program.* **RIGHT**, *Puppets are used to emphasize the significance of animals in traditional Choctaw storytelling.*

LEFT, *ECHO partners deliberating over plans for 2010-2011 projects.* **RIGHT**, *Roseanna Thompson (far left) engages in a discussion with fellow ECHO representatives.*

ECHO Summit

On April 27-29, 2010, the ECHO quarterly meeting was held in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and was hosted by the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the Ocean Exploratorium.

Roseanna Thompson, CEO representative for Mi̱ko Denson, and Bobby Smith, ECHO Project Manager, attended the 2010-11 collaborative executive planning sessions.

Other attendees represented the ECHO partner institutions: Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska; Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage, Alaska; Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii; and the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts.

Cultural Preservation Programs supports
National Child Abuse Awareness

LEFT, *Curtis Willis Jr., Shawi, & Phyllis McMillan carry the CPP banner of support for National Child Abuse Awareness.* **RIGHT**, *Shawi mingles with the children.*

CPP staff introduces Choctaw storytelling to Newton County Library Group

By the invite of the Newton County Friends of the Library organization, Pattie Billie and Phyllis McMillan visited the Newton County Library to present the Choctaw tradition of storytelling on April 28, 2010. The two CPP employees shared various Choctaw stories that involved the 13 library club members to participate in the story activities.

......see CPP NEWS, pg. 12

CPP NEWS .... continued from page eleven

Walking for the Children

On April 14, 2010, CPP staff members participated in the Child Abuse Awareness Parade. The event presented an exciting opportunity for Shawi, the CPP mascot, to sing, dance and talk to young tribal members while advocating for their rights and encouraging parents to protect their children.

Literacy class participants proudly display their certificates. Pictured, front row from left, are Patsy Tubby, Darlene Willis, Reyes Willis, Maxie Hardy, Diana Ben; back row, Darin Durant, Sean Gantt, John Hardy Jr., Laura Horlins, Greg Phillips, & Jason Lewis. Not pictured are Ozzie Willis & Pam Smith.

Choctaw Literacy Class pupils receive Certificates of Completion

A series of ten Choctaw Literacy classes were conducted by CPP language instructors Phyllis McMillan and Priscilla Williams. The courses were held each week at the Institute of Chahta Immi over several weeks.

Ms. Williams provided lessons that covered the fundamentals of reading and writing in the Choctaw language.

Younger students were taught the Choctaw colors and numbers through various activities by Ms. McMillan.

On April 28, 2010, participants were given certificates for completing the course and celebrated their achievement with a potluck supper.

Denson accepts honor for Choctaw Tribal Schools

Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry and Choctaw Tribal Council member Cyrus Ben (Pearl River) attended the 2010 AdvancED Conference, held at the Hilton Hotel in Atlanta, GA, April 17-19. Others present for the conference were Tarita Ben, Nell Adkins, Skyla Hailey, and Peggy Crowe.

Mi̱ko Denson was in atten-

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Pictured from left are Mississippi AdvancED State Director Dr. Bud Ginn, Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, Mississippi AdvancED State Director Dr. Harold Fisher, and Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry.

CCHS hosts second Author's Night

On May 3, 2010, Choctaw Central High School library was the location of the second annual AUTHORS' NIGHT for Choctaw Central Middle School and High School CAAP/TAG students and creative writing students of Julia Faulk.

The library was temporarily transformed into a showcase for the writing of seventh through tenth graders. Tribal members, family members, friends, principals, teachers, and other guests were entertained as students read their favorite written works and as they displayed their own books.

Senator Giles Ward and his wife, as well as the Channel 5 News, Neshoba Democrat editor Jim Prince, and several representatives of the Mississippi Writing and Thinking Institute of Mississippi State University were among those perusing the authors' books.

The students' books were composed of stories, advertisements, WOW words, research papers, and poetry written throughout this school year. In addition, the Humanities II class created their own Choctaw Tribal game boards from research they did on their tribe.

The students and Mrs. Faulk would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement.

State Senator Giles Ward, left, with Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry.

Choctaw Central High School student Shauna Lewis with her publication and display.

Students had the opportunity to showcase their talents to parents & special guests through their writings.

dance to accept the 2009 AdvancEd District Accreditation Quality Achievement Award from Dr. Mark Elgart, President/CEO of AdvancED.

AdvancED is the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCI CASI), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

Mi̱ko Denson received a standing ovation after Dr. Elgart announced that the Choctaw Tribal Schools received the distinction of being recognized as the only Native American School System in the United States to earn SACS CASI AdvancED District Accreditation.

By achieving district accreditation, schools have shown their commitment to promote an education system in which stakeholders collaborate and review the success and needs of the eight Choctaw Tribal schools.

To earn and maintain accreditation from NCA CASI or SACS CASI, school districts and their schools must:

1) Meet the AdvancED Standards for Quality School Systems. School districts demonstrate adherence to the seven AdvancED standards which describe the quality practices and conditions that research and best practice indicate are necessary for school districts to achieve quality student performance and organizational effectiveness.

2) Engage in continuous improvement. School districts and their schools implement a continuous improvement process that articulates the vision and purpose that the school district is pursuing (vision); maintains a rich and current description of students, their performance, school and district effectiveness, and the school community (profile); employs goals and interventions to improve student performance (plan); and documents and uses the results to inform what happens next (results).

3) Demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review. School districts and schools engage in planned process of ongoing internal review and self-assessment. In addition, school districts host an external quality assurance review team once every five years.

The team evaluates the school district's adherence to the AdvancED quality standards, assesses the efficacy of the school district's improvement process and methods for quality assurance, and provides commendations and recommendations to help the school district improve.

The team provides an oral exit report to the school dis-

...........see HONOR, pg. 14

AdvancED
DISTRICT ACCREDITATION
Quality Achievement Award
2009

LEFT, *Dr. Mark Elgart, President/CEO of AdvancED, presents Mi̱ko Denson with the AdvancED District Accreditation Quality Achievement Award.* **RIGHT**, *Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, left, and Pearl River Tribal Council and Education Committee member Cyrus Ben proudly display accreditation awards received during the 2010 AdvancED Conference April 17.*

Tribal Schools hosts Second All School Parent Retreat

Choctaw Tribal Schools recently held its Second Annual All School Parent Retreat at the Silver Star Convention Center on Saturday, March 27, 2010.

David Germany opened the meeting and Leland Lewis led the invocation. During the morning session, attendees heard information from Dalton Henry, Tribal Education Services Officer; Angela Hundley, representative from Mi̱ko Denson's office; Cyrus Ben, Tribal Council Education Committee member; and Lonnie Moore, Effective Habits of Successful Families.

Attendees also enjoyed an impressive performance by the Choctaw Central High School Color Guard and Reale Book presentation by Standing Pine Elementary School Principal Jason Roberson and Standing Pine Pre-kindergarten teacher Jane McPhail. During lunch, schools were recognized for achieving AYP during the 2008-09 school year.

Afternoon presentations included school governance by Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, special presentation by Native American cultural and contemporary performer Jackie Bird and Leader in Me Concept's Lonnie Moore. The day proved to be an informative event that was enjoyed by all.

Members of the CCHS color guard.

Conehatta Elementary School

From left, Conehatta students Trinesa Isom & Keaton Taylor sit at the Conehatta Elementary information table as Dalton J. Henry stands by.

HONOR .... **continued from page thirteen**

trict and a written report detailing the team's recommendations. The school district acts on the team's recommendations and submits a progress report two years following the review.

The conference also focused on leading education ideas and practices and rich learning programs, committed to preparing all students in an ever changing and diverse world. Many of the sessions explored school improvement and increasing district effectiveness.

The AdvancED meetings also emphasized educational policies toward positively impacting the learning process for teachers, administrators, students, and their families. The theme throughout each session was to prepare youth for future opportunities.

CHOCTAW STORYTELLING

Bogue Chitto Elementary School students were privileged with a visit from members of the Cultural Preservation Program for Choctaw storytelling. Phyllis McMillan (CPP) engaged the students in Choctaw conversation and told a story, "The Wild Animals," in Choctaw. Students then had an opportunity to retell the tale using animal puppets. The PreKindergarten - 2nd grade students also demonstrated their own proficiency in Choctaw and sang the Choctaw Color Song and Choctaw Numbers Song for the presenters. Many thanks to Phyllis McMillan and the Cultural Preservation Program for another great lesson in Choctaw cultural arts!

RIGHT, *Learning for Life participants at Standing Pine Elementary School.*

Students participate in Learning for Life program

Mr. Cliff Takawana, Director of Public Safety with Learning for Life, spoke with students at all of the elementary schools of the Choctaw Tribal School System. Learning for Life is a Character Education Curriculum Program sponsored through the Boy Scouts of America.

Takawana presented a variety of activities to students and staff. Students were encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions. They were informed in order to succeed in life they must get a good education, which includes being present and on time for all classes, being respectful to teachers and others, and always striving to be the best they can be.

Learning for Life activity at Bogue Chitto.

Learning for Life activity at Conehatta.

Learning for Life activity at Pearl River.

Learning for Life activity at Red Water.

Learning for Life activities at Tucker.

Bogue Chitto Elementary Spring Festival

Hundreds of people turned out to celebrate Choctaw culture at Bogue Chitto Elementary's Spring Festival. The Bogue Chitto Early Childhood & Head Start classes started the evening with several dances. The elementary classes followed with their own demonstrations of traditional dances. Community & school members joined together for a wonderful meal of our favorite traditional Choctaw foods. Many thanks to all the many people who worked so hard to produce another successful Spring Festival!

Conehatta third graders reduce the garbage

by Lisa Vaughn

The third grade class at Conehatta Elementary School has been learning about the environment and things that affect it.

We have studied GARBAGE! We studied what is done with it, where it goes, and even how much one person makes each day! The average person produces about five pounds of garbage per day.

We want to learn how to protect and preserve our wonderful world. Two of the things we have learned are how to recycle instead of throwing away and how to reduce garbage.

SO...we have been collecting aluminum cans as a class. We have collected A LOT of cans! We are going to take them to the recycling plant and have a party with the money we collect!

We also did an experiment to learn how we can reduce the amount of space our trash takes up. That is really important because much of the country's trash is put into landfills now. They dig a big hole and pile it in and UP. To keep down smell and health issues the garbage is covered with a layer of dirt and plastic, then more is piled on and covered again. This happens until the pile gets to be taller than a 20 story building.

To show how we can compact our trash and take up less room in the landfills, we collected trash for a week or two. Then we took the trash outside and piled it up. We learned how to get the volume of an object and then calculated the volume of our trash pile.

We had 107,800 square inches of GARBAGE! WOW! All the classmates took a few pieces of garbage and tried to pull it apart, smash it, step on it, squish it or do anything that would make it smaller.

When we were finished, we piled our trash up again and measured the volume. It was only 9,792 square inches of garbage!

We had reduced the volume of our garbage by 98,800 square inches. It sure isn't going to take up as much room now!

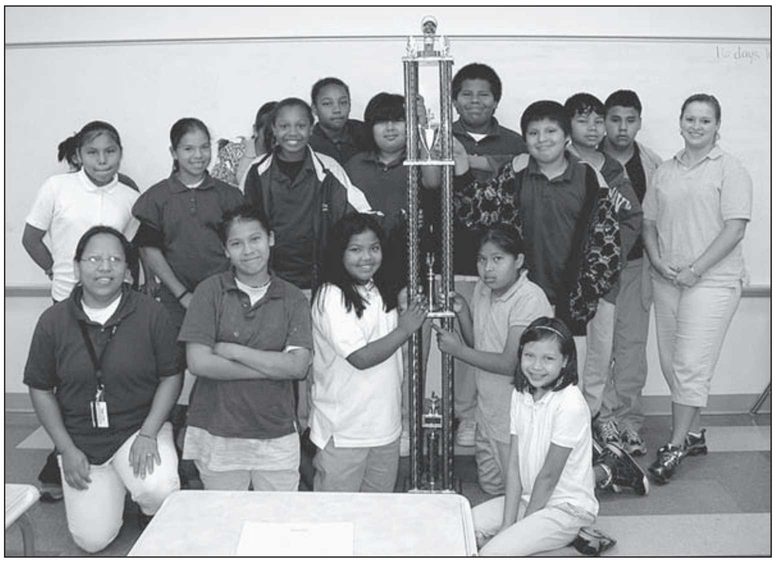
Our class learned that even children can do things to help protect and preserve our environment. We want a pretty earth to live on for a long, long time.

Conehatta third graders recently gathered trash and calculated the volume they collected.

RWES READER

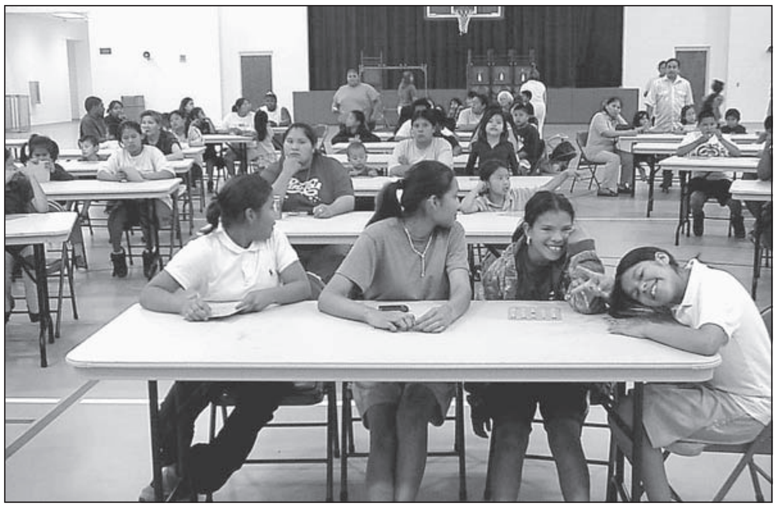
Congratulations to Errol John, right, third grader at Red Water Elementary School, for reading all 43 books in the Magic Treehouse series.

Thanksgiving on Thursday
Good Morning, Gorillas
Dingoes at Dinnertime



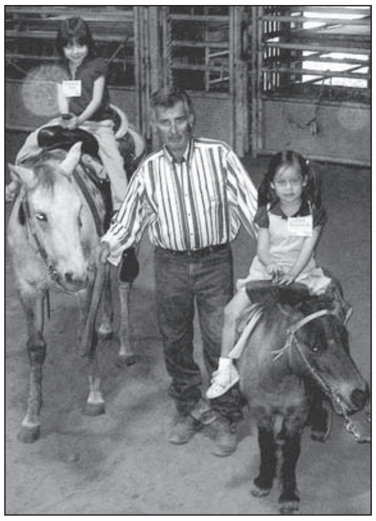
RWES attendance trophy winners

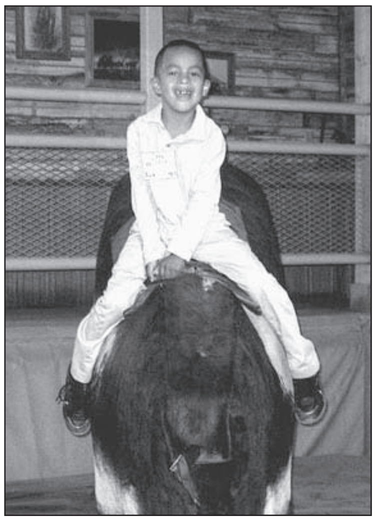
Congratulations to the Red Water Elementary School fifth grade class for winning the attendance trophy for the month of April. They had an ADA of 95.52 percent. Students include Isaiah Cotton, Erica Dixon, Isiah Dixon, Tanner Henry, Selena Jim, Alyssa Jones, Georgina Matthews, Chamaley Nickey, Tomeh Reed, Megan Sockey, Gunnar Tubby, Stacey Tubby, Jessalyn Williams, Aaleyiah Willis, Rebekah Willis, Xena Willis, & Bryton Wilson. The class is taught by Melanie Stokes & Pandora Sockey.



RWES host Bingo for Books event

Red Water Elementary School (RWES) held it's annual Bingo for Books/Parent meeting on Thursday April 29, 2010. RWES Principal Bobby Boone talked to the large crowd in attendance about the importance of the upcoming MCT2 testing. Parents & community members were treated to a KFC supper then played bingo for books & other great prizes. Thanks to all who participated & to all who helped make it such a success!





Pre-K students visit Lovern's Arena

Tucker Elementary School's Pre-K class, taught by Melanie Benn & Vickie Steve, recently visited Lovern's Arena. While there, the children chased chickens, rode the mechanical bull as well as horses & a horse-drawn wagon. The children also took lessons in lassoing. Everyone enjoyed the event.

CCMS students to improve language arts, math scores

Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS) students have been working on Language Arts skills that will help improve MCT II test scores.

Students learned how to use context clues to determine meanings of words to improve vocabulary skills. They completed research activities that reinforced main idea and details. Many passages were read in class to improve their understanding of text structure through discussion and questioning.

Students' skills on grammar mechanics and usage were reinforced by playing games on the computer as well. They also worked on sentence structure (simple, compound, complex and compound-complex sentences) through identifying, analyzing and writing.

CCMS math tutorial students have also been busy working on MCT II objectives.

They played Math Quiz Bowl, a game designed to practice by competency. The computer was utilized by working on several math websites, such as Math Playground and Cool Math, which have programs that let students work on real-world problem solving.

Students worked on area and perimeter projects by measuring the distance of the sidewalk and calculating its measurements, as well as visiting the football field to measure the shadow of the flag pole to use the Pythagorean Theorem.

CHOCTAW MIDDLE
FOOTBALL

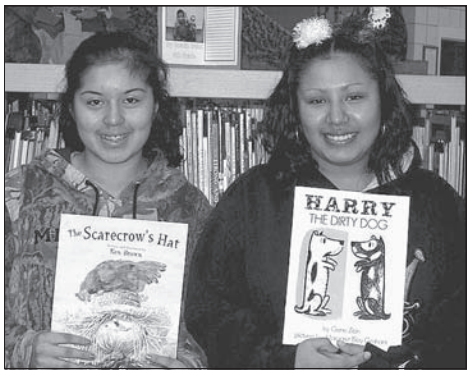
Pictured above are (left) CCMS language arts tutor students & (right) math tutor students.

TUSHKA HASHI
Support CCHS Solar Car Team
Adopt-A Cell
Sponsorship
590

Seeking donations for solar cells

The Choctaw Central High School team is accepting donations through their solar cell program. The team is in the process of finalizing preparations for the 2010 cross-country race & they need to add solar cells to the Tushka Hashi II car so they are asking for help from the community. You can buy a solar cell for this car for $20 per cell or you can donate any amount that will go toward the purchase of cells. If you are interested in donating to the project, please contact Liddia Hughes at 601-663-7802 or 601-416-1761.

CCHS FEA members read to PRES students



Members of Choctaw Central High School's Future Educators of America (FEA) recently read to students at Pearl River Elementary School.

"We appreciate so much you bringing the students to read to our children. It is so important for small children to see and hear older children read... sets good examples for them to follow," said Martha Hancock, PRES librarian.

FEA sponsors are Sheila Loper and Sherry Tubby. Pictured above are FEA members Lanena John and Yolanda Willis.

Preparing for state test

In order to prepare juniors for the U.S. History Subject Area Test, Choctaw Central High School added a history tutor this year. The history tutor, Brenda Nowell, has been developing review strategies to ensure success for each student.

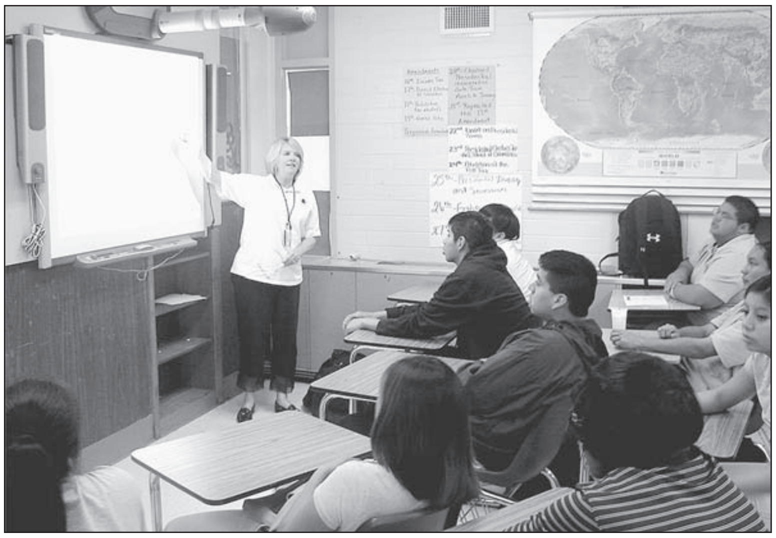
The test was taken on Tuesday, April 27 and students were busy reviewing in a variety of ways prior to the test. In order to meet the learning needs of all students, Mrs. Nowell and Coach Munn gave review tests in written form and on computers in the Plato Lab.

Sample test questions were added to every chapter test in order to keep the students practicing and to help them become comfortable with the format of the state test.

Mrs. Nowell also made a review of state test items and used the review tests on the Smart Board in the classroom, so that students were able to review in a group setting.

Special attention was given to vocabulary, map and graph skills, and political cartoons. Students who were not present for the reviews were provided copies of the sample tests as well as answer keys in order to test themselves at home.

Individualized instruction was given to any student who needed additional help in preparing for the test. All students must pass this test in order to graduate.



History tutor Brenda Nowell has a session with the students.

FBLA's 2009-10 school year contest winners

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the premier organization for students preparing for careers in business. FBLA is the largest student business organization in the world.

Membership in FBLA prepares students for "real-world" professional experiences. Choctaw Central FBLA is a strong student organization with membership in excess of 85 and growing in number each year.

The students are given an opportunity to compete at the district and state level where 26 individual and four team events are available. The top six winners in each event will advance to the state level competition.

At the state level, the top two will advance to the Nationals Leadership Conference. This year the National Leadership will be held in Nashville, Tenn., at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

Sponsors for FBLA are Gail Warner, Carol Jarvis and Joyce Hill.

FBLA state contest winners are, from left, John Hickman (Accounting II), Jasmine Comby (Introduction to Business Communications), Lanena John (Word Processing I), & Bronson Henderson (Business Communications).

FBLA district contest winners are, front row from left, Jasmine Comby (Introduction to Business Communications), Natalie Anderson (Banking & Finance Team), Coby Willace (Personal Finance), Shawna Hickman (Global Business Team), Norma Clae Isaac (Global Business Team); middle row, Keyosha Comby (Banking & Finance Team), Lanena John (Word Processing I), Onna Denson (Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure), Melody Denson (Job Interview), Shonda Wesley (Business Procedures), Briana Windham (Global Business Team), Anissa Allen (Banking & Finance Team); back row, John Hickman (Accounting II), Justin Tubby (Business Math), & Bronson Henderson (Business Communications).

CCHS students participate in two-mile run test

On May 13, Choctaw Central High School students in Ms. Michelle Tangle's physical education class (pictured right) took a two mile run test (eight laps around the Choctaw Central High School track). Forty-one students took the test. There was great participation among all the students.

The goal for the test was to complete the run without walking or stopping until finished. Twenty-six students accomplished this goal with a time range between 13:30-23:23.

Even though 15 others did not achieve this goal, they accomplished by finishing their eight laps and giving it their best.

Incentives were given to all students for great participation. Great job to all 41 students for passing the test with great participation.

PROCLAMATION:

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
MAY 3-9, 2010

***Whereas**, a strong, effective system of free public education for all children and youth is essential to our democratic system of government; and*

***Whereas**, the United States has made considerable progress in the social, technological, and scientific fields due to our system of free and universal public education; and*

***Whereas**, much of this progress can be attributed to the qualified and dedicated teachers entrusted with the educational development of our children; and*

***Whereas**, teachers should be accorded high public esteem, reflecting the value the community places on public education; and*

***Whereas**, the Choctaw Central High School chapters of the Future Educators Association (FEA) and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), as well as the Student Council and Pride Club are keenly aware of the importance of teachers in children reaching their full potential; and*

***Whereas**, it is appropriate that teachers be recognized for their dedication and commitment to educating our children;*

Now, therefore, I, Tribal Education Services Officer, Dalton J. Henry, on behalf of the Choctaw Tribal School District and Choctaw Central High School Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle do hereby proclaim May 3-9, 2010, as Teacher Appreciation Week in Choctaw, Mississippi (Choctaw Central High School) and urge all parents, students and citizens to pay tribute to our school teachers.

CCHS's York finishes second in Class 3A golf championship

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) has seen its share of highlights in post season play over recent years in several of the sports they participate in - and now they can add golf.

CCHS junior Taylor York claimed runner-up honors over a field of the state's top high school golfers during the Class 3A golf tournament held at Reunion Golf Club in Madison on May 11-12.

Reed Lindsey, a senior at Ripley High School, claimed the 3A individual championship.

"This year, I had a great season. I practiced all year and my main goal was not to finish worse than fifth, but I beat that goal this year. My worse finish was coming in fourth. Overall, I am satisfied with what I did," said York.

After two impressive days of play, York and Lindsey were both tied 10-over-par 154 for the tournament, forcing a sudden death playoff match.

"I was trying to calm down and be relaxed, but inside I was shaking and my hands were jittery. I couldn't control them," said York. "I was actually surprised that I got into a playoff, but things turned out the way it did and it wasn't my time to win. Maybe it will be next year."

Both would par the first hole to force another playoff. York felt that the first sudden death was among his greatest performance. After his first shot landed in the trees off the fairway, he recovered by finding the fairway well short of the green which forced another tough shot to try and save for par. After a chip shot went over, York found himself starring down a 10-foot putt, which he saved for par to the cheers of his family as match play was kept alive for one more hole.

"That had to be the most impressive par I ever made. That was the first time I really had so much pressure on me, and I needed it to force a second match," said York.

The second hole would fall short and be less dramatic for York as Lindsey was the one who nailed his second shot a mere 3-feet away from the

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CCHS junior Taylor York finished runner up in the Class 3A golf individual championship held May 12 in Madison.

hole on the par four second hole.

York's second shot on the green gave Lindsey the advantage and the tournament, ending the hope of Choctaw Central's first golf state title.

"Luck happens, sometimes good, sometimes bad," said York. "It's going to take hard work to win and that's what will push me to get better."

A four year member of the CCHS golf team, this was York's first opportunity to compete for a state title. This golf season, York boasted wins at the Forest and Choctaw Invitationals and match play at Philadelphia and Kosciusko.

York is one of three Choctaw Central golfers in school history to reach the state golf tournament and hopes that CCHS will play for a future team championship.

"I hope kids will start playing golf as early as middle school. Maybe one day we will have a team from Choctaw Central make it and not just individuals. I want to see a day when CCHS is also recognized for golf like the other sports and take it to the next level," said York.

Chickaway, Bell sign with ECCC basketball program

Choctaw Central High School seniors Delanda Chickaway and Justin Bell will continue their athletic careers with the East Central Community College basketball program in Decatur next fall.

A ceremony was held in their honor at the Choctaw Central High School library on Monday, May 3, 2010. Choctaw Video sports commentator Jerry Hill served as master of ceremonies.

Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle, CCHS Athletic Director Coach Walter Wilson each offered congratulations to the signees and wished them well in their careers at East Central.

Lady Warriors head basketball coach Jennie Vance spoke to the audience and told them that Chickaway was the main reason the team made it to the Big House this past season.

"She always gave me her best. She gave her teammates her best. She gave it everything she had and she is the main reason we went to the Big House this year. She just refused to let you down, she refused to let us down. We're going to miss her like crazy. But we're going to get to see her play at East Central," said Vance.

Lady Warriors assistant basketball coach Elyse Willis encouraged Chickaway to not give up and to keep working hard.

Chickaway thanked coaches Vance and Willis for their encouragement, and she encouraged her teammates to keep their heads up.

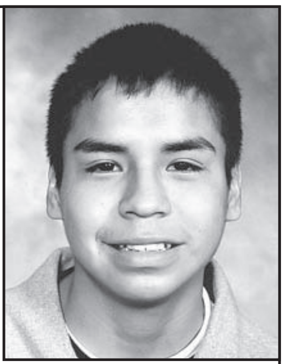
This past season, Chickaway averaged 14.3 points per game with 2 assists, 11.9 rebounds and 3.5 steals. The Lady Warriors were 24-8 and made it to the semifinal of the Class 3A State Tournament in Jackson.

Warriors head basketball coach Scott Thomas praised

.........see SIGNING, pg. 20

Seated from left, are ECCC boys' basketball coach Maurice Bowie, Bell, Chickaway, ECCC girls' basketball coach Bill Smith; standing, CCHS boys' basketball coach Scott Thomas, Bell's mother Angela Chitto, Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, Chickaway's mother Deana Chickaway, CCHS Principal Dr. Greg Carlyle, CCHS Athletic Director Coach Walter Wilson, CCHS girls' basketball head coach Jennie Vance, & CCHS girls' basketball assistant coach Elyse Willis.

Shumake accepted to summer program



Nicklaus C. Shumake

Congratulations to Nicklaus C. Shumake for being accepted in a summer program into the Mathematics and Science for Minority Students (MS^2) at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.

He will spend three consecutive summer terms at Phillips Academy on a scholarship. To be eligible for the program he had to maintain a 3.5 GPA, recommendation letters from the counselor, math and science teachers, an essay, and an interview from the director of MS^2.

Nicklaus is a freshman at Choctaw Central High School. We are proud of you Nick! Continue to excel in all of your achievements. Love, Mom, Gary, Chantell, Shane, Cham, and Amlee.

Weaver graduates from FIT

Josh Weaver, the son of proud parents Douglas and Sandra Weaver and honored member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, recently earned a Master's degree from the Florida Institute of Technology in the field of biotechnology.

His work culminated in a project that explored the spectral quality, nutrient limitation, and hormonal regulation for the micropropagation by tissue culture of Red Mangrove, an ecologically significant Florida native species.

Josh recently participated in the summer volunteer program for the Smithsonian Marine Research Station - Ft. Pierce, where he participated in an Ecology based study to determine the differences that seagrass-associated organism have on seagrass bed productivity and the overall health of the ecosystem in Florida's Banana River Lagoon marine reserve.

SIGNING .... continued from page nineteen

Bell for his strong playing spirit and said Bell was "small in stature, but big in heart."

"He has that knack. Some players just have a knack of getting the ball and scoring and being at the right time at the right place and that's a big part of the game. He really did a good job for us and I think (EC) is getting a real special player and we wish him the best," said Thomas.

Bell averaged 8.4 points per game, 2.1 assists, 1.9 rebounds, and 1.4 steals this past season as the Warriors posted a 21-8 record and an appearance in the Class 3A South State Tournament.

Bell said the Warriors basketball team was the best team he had played on during his high school career.

ECCC basketball coaches Bill Smith (girls) and Maurice Bowie (boys) expressed their confidence in Chickaway and Bell.

"We feel like we are definitely getting a good player and hopeful she comes to East Central and be a part of our program. I know she has had a great career here at Choctaw Central and hopeful she will be able to continue that same thing at East Central and do what she has done here," said Smith.

"Justin Bell does a great job with the basketball, delivering the basketball, contributing the basketball. He is a kid that can score and get the whole team involved. He will definitely be an instrumental part of our game. I feel blessed to be able to get a kid like Justin at his talent level," said Bowie.

CCHS Student Body President Joshua Thomas offered his congratulations to the two athletes.

The ceremony concluded with Chickaway and Bell taking pictures with their coaches, teammates and family members.

Thompson graduates from MSU-Meridian

Doris Ann Thompson (pictured right) graduated from Mississippi State University-Meridian on April 30, 2010, with a bachelors of social work degree. She was inducted into the Iota Psi Chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work. Thompson was also recognized as an "Outstanding Social Action Advocate" for the elderly.

Thompson states it was a long journey but well worth the time & effort for the knowledge & skills she gained by furthering her education.

She would like to thank the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) scholarship program for assisting her for the last two years of her education, the social work program staff at Mississippi State University-Meridian campus, the MBCI social work program & all her family & friends who supported her through the years.

CONGRATULATES STUDENTS

The Choctaw Vocational Education & Employment Program staff congratulates students on obtaining their awards. Pictured from left are Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, Choctaw Vocational Education Program Director Angeline Hickman, students Paula Covarrubias (Computer Programmer Technology), Wanoka Thomas (Medical Office Technology) & Ramon Agurrie (Hotel/Restaurant Technology).

OTC hosts awards banquet

On April 30, 2010, the Occupational Training Center hosted the Dress for Success & Awards Banquet at the Silver Star Hotel & Casino Convention Center. A warm welcome was given by Mrs. Liddia Hughes and prayer by Tribal Education Services officer Dalton Henry.

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Cathy Cheatham & Vandy Lewis

Marsha Pinter & Shantalida Lewis

Josh Hickman & Martha Cloer

Kathy Jones & David Hall

Mariah Clemons & Melissa Foster

Queen Crystal Thomas & King Vandy Lewis

Students and faculty were treated with great food and music provided by Brandon Hughes throughout the night. Seniors Shawn Lewis & Crystal Thomas spoke on their experiences at Choctaw Central and wished the senior class success.

Cathy Cheatham presented Vandy Lewis the Culinary Arts Award for the 2009-2010 school year.

Marsha Pinter presented Shantalida Lewis with the Youth & Community Apprenticeship Award.

Martha Cloer presented Josh Lewis with Design & Merchandising Technology for Fashion & Interiors Award.

Kathy Jones presented David Hall with Most Dedicated Student Award.

Melissa Foster presented Mariah Clemons with Perfect Attendance Award

King and Queen of The Occupational Training Center was awarded to Vandy Lewis and Crystal Thomas

Student of the Year Award was presented by CCHS Principal Dr. Carlyle, Liddia Hughes and Dalton Henry to Shawn Lewis

Best All-Around Boy Award was presented to Sebastion York

Employee of the Year Award was presented to Deidre Willis.

Best All-Around Girl Award was presented to Katlyn Wilson.

Joey Long presented the Building & Trades Award to Ricky Mingo.

From left, Dr. Carlyle, Liddia Hughes, Student of the Year Shawn Lewis, & Dalton Henry.

From left, Dr. Carlyle, Liddia Hughes, Employee of the Year Deidre Willis, & Dalton Henry.

From left, Dr. Carlyle, Liddia Hughes, Best All-Around Boy Sebastion York, & Dalton Henry.

From left, Dr. Carlyle, Liddia Hughes, Best All-Around Girl Katlyn Wilson, & Dalton Henry.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

April Events

On April 9, during Teen Night, Cheryl Smith & Janine Ferris with the Family Violence & Victim's Service informed teens about dating violence, healthy relationships & the warning signs of dating violence. They gave examples of unhealthy relationships, handed out pamphlets & answered the teens' questions. To show their appreciation for the presentation, members invited Janine & Cheryl to have Indian tacos with them for dinner. The presentation was very informative. Thanks Janine & Cheryl, we enjoyed your visit.

On April 23, TORCH & Keystone members assisted at the Conehatta Spring Festival in preparing to go plates, setting up & cleaning up.

On April 24, TORCH member Fabion Anderson & Keystone member Garrett Thomas participated in the Sticker Shock event held by the Choctaw Behavioral Health Prevention Program.

On April 30, Teen Night participants were taken to Bonita Lakes Cinemas to watch a movie & have dinner.

May Events

On May 1, 12 members ages 5-8 & their mothers watched "The Little Mermaid" play at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian. These members were selected for their participation & attendance in the Smart Girls Program. The mothers & daughters also spent the day together in recognition of Mother's Day.

Club members Fabion, Sharisha & Jonica listen intently as Cheryl Smith (left) explains about dating violence & knowing the signs of being in an unhealthy relationship.

May 5 was Boys & Girls Club's National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. We had Tonya Lay with the Choctaw Behavioral Health Department come to the club & inform members about abstinence.

On May 13, five members were chosen to attend a Boys & Girls Club For the Kids fundraising dinner at the Silver Star Convention

..see CLUB NEWS, pg. 22

CLUB NEWS

continued from page twenty-one

Center. Also, five other members attended the For the Kids mini football clinic at Choctaw Central High School.

On May 14, the Teen Night End of School Session was held as teens were taken to Skate Odyssey in Meridian for a fun filled evening of skating.

CONGRATULATIONS! to academic award winners Taterrian Anderson, Dylanna Charlie, Dillon Farmer, Lane Farmer, Alexander Gibson, Mathis Hall, Tiana Jim, Megan Jim, Matt Jimmie, Melody Jimmie, Shantashia John, Afton Johnson, Alarys Martin, Larena McMillan, Hayden Nickey, Kacey Nickey, Keondre Nickey, Ashlyn Shoemake, Emily L. Shoemake, Lorenzo Shoemake, Hunter Smith, Dearryl Soloman, Garrett Thomas, Jaiden Thomas, Jayna Thomas, Jonica Thomas, Leighanna Thomas, Caleb Williamson, Samuel Wallace, Kurtland Williamson, Mya Williamson, Brannon Wilson, & Deshane Wishork.

Celebrating Mother's Day were, front row from left, Javy, Haven, Remini, Taelyn, Makala, Jaelissa, Danessa; back row, Juacina Thomas, Quintennette Hickman, Matilda King, Jamie Nickey, & Elizabeth Pennington.

Summer Session

- Club opens for summer session on June 1, 2010!
- Summer session application will be available the week of May 21.
- All members new/current must have an updated application to attend summer session 2010.
- We will serve lunch ONLY on June 1 & July 5-9 & July 12-13. When summer school starts June 2, we will be eating lunch at the school.
- Summer school ends July 2.
- Summer session at Boys & Girls ends July 13.

June Scheduled Events

On June 1, 14, 23, & 30, Team Building teens will go to the Choctaw Challenge Course.

On June 4, there will be a Kids in Control Fire Safety presentation by Allen Meely, liaison for the Choctaw Fire Department. During the presentation, TORCH club members will wash Mr. Meely's patrol vehicle.

On June 11, Smart Moves preteens & teens will tour the Choctaw Youth Detention Center & then enjoy the afternoon fishing at Lake Pushmataha.

On June 16, Team Building members ages 11-18 will participating in Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls Club's one day volleyball tournament.

On June 18, the Smart Moves Program will have a tobacco prevention presentation by Marquita Wilson of Choctaw Behavioral Health. While Mrs. Wilson is presenting, Keystone Club members will wash her program vehicle.

On June 24, the Art Program will have the Choctaw Cultural Program demonstrate & assist members in making stickball aprons.

On June 27, Triple Play Program members & their fathers will attend a Mississippi Braves baseball game in recognition of Father's Day.

4-H NEWS

4-H - The Power of YOUth; National Volunteer Week, April 19-27

Why Volunteer? Because one person can make a difference. It isn't the reward that matters of the recognition **you** might harvest. It's **your** depth of commitment, **your** quality of service, the product of **your** devotion - these are the things that count in life. When **you** give purely, the honor is giving & that is honor enough. Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart. Volunteers are seldom paid or not at all, not because they are worthless, but because they are **PRICELESS**!

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' 4-H Program recognizes & appreciates the following 4-H Club volunteers for contributing their time in helping out with the 4-H Club in their community.

Bogue Chitto - Debra Bell, Darry Williams, Magan Williams, Rochelle Wallace, Lena Tucker, Melinda Wallace, Tiffany Amos, & Barney Hickman.

Bogue Homa - Diane Ben, Margaret Jefferson, Brenda Vaughn, & Cecile Lopaz.

Conehatta - Fannie Williamson, Jewel Frazier, Valerie Thomas, Lisa Gibson, Dawnena John, Christopher Thompson, Andrea Smith, Deana Chickaway, & Ivora Johnson.

Crystal Ridge - Louis Ferris, Kim Ferris, Jennifer Cotton, Earlene Frazier, Ann Wesley, & Joseph Wesley.

Pearl River - Dava Meely, Lisa Briscoe, Sylvia Johnson, Lindsey Gibson, Amanda Bell, Billy Jack Lewis, Beatrice Steve, Arrah John, & Karla Keats.

Red Water - Wanda Wilson, Lynn Parkerson & Eva Sam.

Standing Pine - Erica Farve, Pam Stoliby, Revalene Hickman, Abigail Sockey, Damon Bell, Alvina Mitch, Lareathea Solomon, Becky Wilson, Diana Ben, Shayla King, Abe Stoliby, & Torrie Mingo.

Tucker - Valentina Bell, Adrienne Tubby, Jenny Mingo, Bridgeo Phillips Sr., Danita McMillan, Georgianna McMillan, & Ferradee Lewis.

If you are over 18 years of age & would like to be a volunteer with the 4-H Club, contact 4-H staff members Buffy Ben, Ethel Thomas & Virginia W. Willis at 601-656-2070.

THANKING 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS DURING NATIONAL 4-H WEEK, APRIL 19-24

A gift of a coffee mug imprinted with "Volunteers are the Heart of 4-H" filled with candies, 4-H notebook, 4-H pen, 4-H bookmarker, & a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to volunteer leaders in recognition of their contribution to the 4-H Youth Development Program.

Volunteers honored serving in the Crystal Ridge, Pearl River, Standing Pine, & Tucker Community 4-H Clubs are listed below.

Arrah John resides in the

..........continued next page

Pearl River community with her daughter, Arylynn, & is a Pearl River 4-H volunteer leader. She is employed with MBCI-Division of Early Childhood Education. John has volunteered for several years "to help young children become better persons & also, teamwork to work together."

Dava Meely resides in the Pearl River Community with her husband, Allen, & four children. She is employed at Pearl River Day Care. This is Meely's first year as 4-H Volunteer Leader. "I enjoy helping out with my children & other children."

Lareathea Solomon is a 4-H volunteer leader at Standing Pine. Lareathea & her husband, Willie, live in the Standing Pine Community with their child, Tyrese. Lareathea is employed at the Office of Internal Audit. This is Lareatha's first year to volunteer & says she enjoys "lending a needed hand."

Ann Wesley serves an important part in her community as a Tribal Councilwoman for Crystal Ridge where she makes time to support the 4-H Club in her community. Mrs. Wesley & her husband, Clay, reside in Crystal Ridge. "(4-H) it's a good educational program for the children & youth & we should continue having it for them. We learn from the new innovations & still we learn from the past experience as well as learning from old curriculum & criteria."

Abigail Sockey resides in the Standing Pine Community with her children, Merchaylee & Aujoraye. Abigail is employed at the Choctaw Health Center. This is Abigail's first year to serve as 4-H leader & says she volunteers "to help kids be better leaders when they grow up."

Alvina Mitch & her daughter, Jayasri, reside in the Standing Pine Community, where they are members of the Standing Pine 4-H Club. Alvina is serving her first year as 4-H volunteer leader. She is employed at the Choctaw Health Center. Mitch said, "To volunteer means getting involved & understand more about 4-H. It makes me appreciate the staff for what they go through for our kids. For this I say thank you."

Louis Ferris, II, & his wife, **Kim**, are serving as 4-H volunteer leaders in the Crystal Ridge Community. They reside in the Pearl River Community with their children, Kennedy & Genesis. Kim works with the Boys & Girls Club & Louis is employed at the Choctaw Youth Court. This is their second year to volunteer as 4-H leaders. They commented, "Volunteering for youth helps us to enable our thought & actions among the youth & give the youth a sense of importance on how you can give back to your community."

Georgianna McMillan serves as a 4-H volunteer leader in the Tucker Community where she resides with her family. She works at the Tucker Facility Building. This is McMillan's second year to serve as 4-H leader. "I would like for the kids to be involve & get the 4-H Club known to the community that the organization be fun for all ages to join."

Danita McMillan resides in the Tucker Community with her children, Kaedre Denson (8) & Bryceton McMillan (4 months old). This is McMillan's first year to serve as 4-H volunteer leader. She works at Choctaw Federal Credit Union. Her reason to serve as a 4-H volunteer is "to help promote the youth of Tucker Community the awareness of the 4-H Club."

Earlene Frazier lives in the Crystal Ridge Community where she is working as a 4-H volunteer leader. She is employed by Natural Resources & Rural Development. She has been serving as a volunteer for several years.

Joseph Wesley is from the Crystal Ridge Community & serves as 4-H volunteer leader when he can & is also a big supporter of the 4-H Club. He is employed by the Choctaw Health Center.

Billy Jack Lewis & his wife, **Louise**, are active volunteers in the Pearl River 4-H Club.

Pam Stoliby & her son, Cody, reside in the Standing Pine Community where she is an active 4-H volunteer leader.

Diana Ben Tangle resides in the Standing Pine Community with her family & serves as a 4-H volunteer leader. She is employed at the Standing Pine & Red Water Schools.

Erica Farve is from the Standing Pine community where she is a 4-H volunteer leader. Farve is a teacher assistant at Standing Pine School & is serving her first year as 4-H leader. She volunteers "to donate time to help out where it is needed."

Beatrice Steve resides in the Pearl River Community & is employed by the Choctaw Police Department. Beatrice attends Pearl River 4-H with her granddaughters & is also an active 4-H volunteer leader.

Sadie Wilson resides in Standing Pine with her family. Wilson is employed at Standing Pine School as a cook & is a returning 4-H leader. She served for several years when her children were in the club. Now that she's a grandmother, she volunteered to serve again. "I like to work with children & help them with crafts."

Also honored were (no bios available) **Karla Keats** of the Pearl River 4-H Club, **Damon Bell**, **Shayla King**, **Abe Stoliby**, & **Torrie Mingo**, all of the Standing Pine 4-H Club.

MBCI 4-H CLUB VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Arrah John *Dava Meely* *Lareathea Solomon* *Ann Wesley* *Abigail Sockey*

Alvina Mitch *Louis Ferris, II, and Kim Ferris* *Georgianna McMillan* *Danita McMillan*

Earlene Frazier *Joseph Wesley* *Billy Jack Lewis* *Pam Stoliby* *Diana Ben Tangle*

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For more information call Brenda Stephens, 601.562.5228
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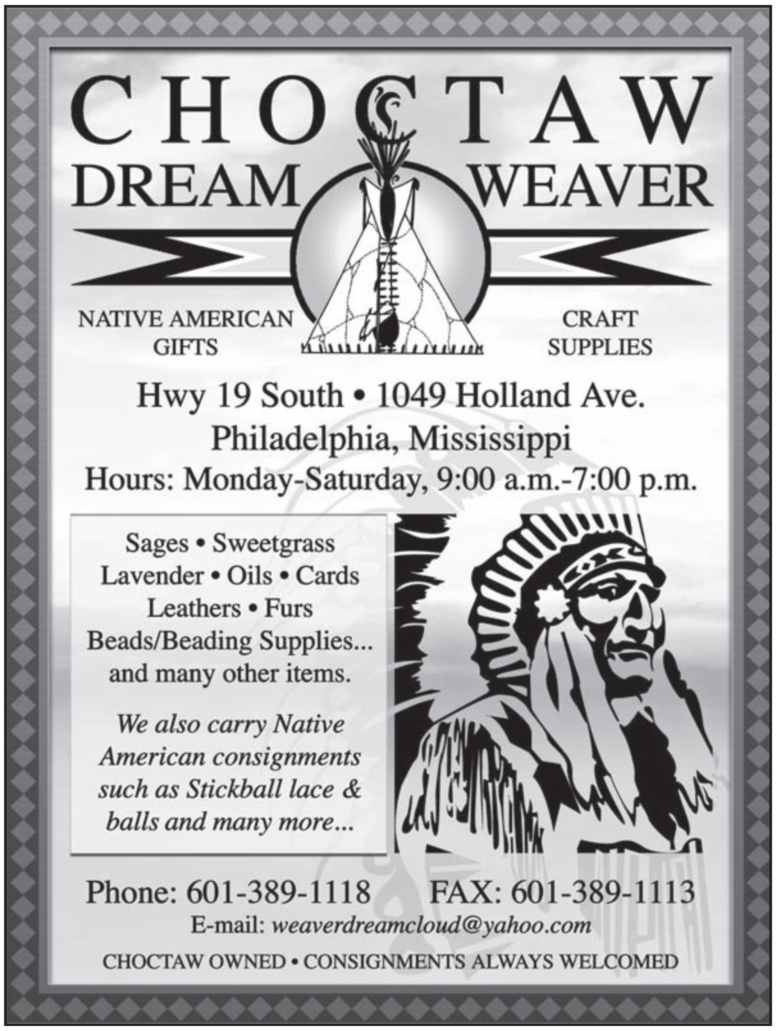
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CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR EXHIBIT RULES, REQUIREMENTS

4-H DIVISION

1. 4-H exhibits must be made, grown or canned by **enrolled members of 4-H Clubs of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.**

2. Members may enter only **one of each item listed & any item not included in this list of exhibits cannot be entered unless specifically stated otherwise.**

3. Any exhibit entered in previous fair will be ineligible as an exhibit **except** sewing boxes, recipe boxes, first aid kits, 4-H records, insect collections, or picture albums **that have been improved.** These items must show improvements since the 2009 Choctaw Indian Fair.

4. 4-H Exhibit Booth will be designated in the Pearl River Community Center. **Exhibits will be entered Monday, July 12, 2010, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. & Tuesday, July 13, 2010, from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon.**

5. No entry fee will be charged to exhibitors. Blue, red & white ribbons will be awarded as 1st, 2nd & 3rd premiums. Each entry will be judged on its own merit.

6. **Exhibitors must pre-register with the 4-H staff by Friday, June 25, 2010.** Exhibit numbers & entry tags will be issued at this time. Exhibits must be registered with designated fair officials by 12 noon on Tuesday, July 13, 2010.

7. Each exhibitor must furnish heavy-duty paper plates for fresh fruits, vegetables & baked goods.

8. Canned foods believed to be artificially colored, canned with acids or commercially canned foods repacked will be disqualified by the judges.

9. Premiums will be awarded on or before Friday, August 6, 2010.

10. **The Choctaw Indian Fair, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians or the Fair Exhibit Committee will not be responsible for damage or loss of any article entered as an exhibit. Security guards will be on duty during the Fair.**

11. **Exhibits will be checked out Sunday, July 18, 2010, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.**

12. For more information, contact the 4-H Youth Development Office at Natural Resources & Rural Development at 601-656-2070.

YOUTH DIVISION

1. All interested youth must not belong to the 4-H club and is an **enrolled member** of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

2. Youth exhibits must be made, grown or canned. **Youth may enter a minimum of five items or more** and one of each item listed. Any item not included in the list of exhibits cannot be entered, unless specifically stated otherwise.

3. Art work entries must be neat & framed. NO XEROX COPIES.

4. Any exhibit entered in previous fair will be ineligible as an exhibit **except** sewing boxes, recipe boxes, first aid kits, insect collections, or picture albums that have been improved. These items must show improvements since the 2009 Choctaw Indian Fair.

5. Youth Exhibit Booth will be designated in the Pearl River Community Center. **Exhibits will be entered Monday, July 12, 2010, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. & Tuesday, July 13, 2010, from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon.**

6. No entry fee will be charged to exhibitors. Blue, red & white ribbons will be awarded as 1st, 2nd & 3rd premiums. Each entry will be judged on its own merit.

7. **Exhibitors must pre-register with the 4-H staff by Friday, June 25, 2010.** Exhibit numbers & entry tags will be issued at this time. Exhibitors must be officially registered on or before 12 noon on Tuesday, July 13, 2010. (For an organization or club, please bring in exhibits on Monday, July 12, 2010.)

8. Each exhibitor must furnish heavy-duty paper plates for fresh fruits, vegetables & baked goods.

9. **The Choctaw Indian Fair, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians or the Fair Exhibit Committee will not be responsible for damage or loss of any article entered as an exhibit. Security guards will be on duty during the Fair.**

10. Premiums will be awarded on or before Friday, August 6, 2010.

11. Canned foods believed to be artificially colored, canned with acids or commercially canned foods repacked will be disqualified by the judges.

..........continued next page

12. **Exhibits will be checked out Sunday, July 18, 2010, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.**

13. For more information, contact the 4-H Youth Development Office at Natural Resources & Rural Development at 601-656-2070.

ADULT DIVISION

1. Exhibitors must be 18 years of age or older and an **enrolled member** of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

2. Adult Exhibit Booth will be designated in the Pearl River Community Center. **Exhibits will be entered Monday, July 12, 2010, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. & Tuesday, July 13, 2010, from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon.**

3. Any exhibit entered in previous fair will be ineligible as an exhibit **except** sewing boxes, recipe boxes, first aid kits, insect collections, or picture albums that have been improved. These items must show improvements since the 2009 Choctaw Indian Fair.

4. No entry fee will be charged to exhibitors. Blue, red & white ribbons will be awarded as 1st, 2nd & 3rd premiums. Each entry will be judged on its own merit.

5. **Exhibitors must pre-register with the 4-H staff by Friday, June 25, 2010.** Exhibit numbers & entry tags will be issued at this time. Exhibitors must be officially registered on or before 12 noon on Tuesday, July 13, 2010.

6. Each exhibitor must furnish heavy-duty paper plates for fresh fruits, vegetables & baked goods.

7. Canned foods believed to be artificially colored, canned with acids or commercially canned foods repacked will be disqualified by the judges.

8. Premiums will be awarded on or before Friday, August 6, 2010.

9. **The Choctaw Indian Fair, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians or the Fair Exhibit Committee will not be responsible for damage or loss of any article entered as an exhibit. Security guards will be on duty during the Fair.**

10. **Exhibits will be checked out Sunday, July 18, 2010, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.**

11. For more information, contact the 4-H Youth Development Office at the Department of Natural Resources & Rural Development at 601-656-2070.

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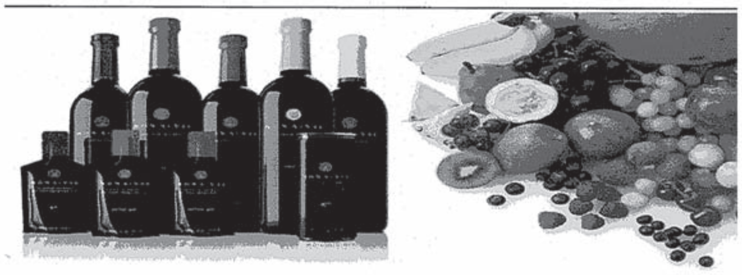

Choctaw hosts annual MPTA bus roadeo

submitted by Billy Robertson, Mississippi of Choctaw Indians Transit Program Director

The Mississippi Public Transit Association (MPTA), Inc's., annual Bus Roadeo was held here in Choctaw, MS on April 16-17, 2010. This has become a tradition for the MPTA. Folks involved in public transit come from all over the state to Choctaw to enjoy being a part of this event.

The event included training in wheelchair securement and defensive driving on Friday afternoon. A reception was held Friday evening at the Golden Moon for all the participants and judges. Following the reception, instructions where given to all drivers and judges and a written test was given to the drivers. This is one part of what the drivers are judged on.

Other events held on Saturday at the Choctaw Central High baseball field parking lot included wheelchair securement, pre-trip inspection and driving through a course of obstacles. A picnic was enjoyed by all Saturday at noon.

We got an extra treat this year. While enjoying lunch we also got to see the Choctaw Central High School baseball team win a game against Carthage. Everyone really enjoyed the active Saturday and wanted to know if a game could be scheduled for next year during the Roadeo.

The main event of the Roadeo was the banquet and awards ceremony Saturday evening at the Golden Moon VIP room. The event is divided into two division - 17 passenger bus and 15 passenger van. First, second and third place was awarded in each division.

First place in each division received a $500 check from MPTA and an expense paid trip to the Community Transportation Association of America National Public Transit Bus Roadeo. This year, the national event is in Long Beach, California May 21-22, 2010. Second place received a $250 check from MPTA and also a trip to California for the national event.

Winners this year in the bus division were: Otis Mingo, Choctaw Transit, placed first with 863 points; Lamo Johnson, Choctaw Elderly Program, placed second with

.........see ROADEO, pg. 26

Honored at the awards banquet were, from left, MBCI Transit Program Director Billy Robertson (accepting second place trophy on behalf of Lamo Johnson); Otis Mingo of Choctaw Transit; Patricia Kopaddy of Choctaw Transit; Archie Tucker of the Mississippi Christian Family Services of Rolling Fork; Lester Adams, Mississippi Valley State University; Michael Morris, Claiborne County Human Resource Agency of Port Gibson; and John Johnson, MPTA President.

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ROADEO .... continued from page twenty-five

854 points; and Archie Tucker, Mississippi Christian Family Services of Rolling Fork, placed third with 850 points.

Winners in the van division were: Michael Morris, Claiborne County Human Resource Agency of Port Gibson, placed first with 840 points; Lester Adams, Mississippi Valley State University, placed second with 800 points; and Patricia Kopaddy, Choctaw Transit, placed third with 793 points. Congratulations to all the winners and good luck in Long Beach.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all which helped make this year's Roadeo a wonderful success: especially the staff at Choctaw Transit for all your hard work in setting up the course and being sure everything was as it should be; Allen Peebles, Tribal School maintenance, for allowing us to use the parking lot - thanks for all your help and everyone did enjoy the game during lunch; Gary Chickaway, Tribal Maintenance, for the tents, tables and chairs; the Choctaw Community News for the pictures taken during the awards ceremony; the Resort for making everyone feel welcome and the great food and service for the awards banquet; the judges; cooks for the picnic; Robert Briscoe for the use of his grill; MDOT staff for keeping score; and all who pitched in to make the Roadeo a success. Thank all of you for what you did.

I would like to also say thank you to the Tribal administration and council for supporting public transit on the reservation. We look forward to seeing all of you next year for the annual Mississippi Public Transit Bus Roadeo.

From left, Bogue Homa residents Ashton Westmoreland, Christina Thomas & their grandmother, Pearlie Thomas, threw beads & candy to the parade spectators in Hattiesburg.

Bogue Homa community members participate in parade in Hattiesburg

On March 20, the City of Hattiesburg hosted the 9th Annual Irish-Italian Festival & Parade. The parade began in the parking lot of Southern Miss' Hillcrest Residence Hall & traveled down West Fourth Street, ending at the St. Thomas Catholic Church. The parade organizer opened the parade to different Mississippi cultures this year & Dr. Tammy Greer, from the Center for American Indian Research & Studies at Southern Miss, contacted the tribe asking for Choctaw representation in the parade as "people of the first culture" in Mississippi. Pearlie Thomas from the Bogue Homa community brought family members & friends to walk the parade route throwing beads & candy to spectators along the route.

Two of the children ate more candy than they threw & enjoyed the ride.

Family time.

Tribal youth participate in Project Sticker Shock

Project Sticker Shock is an activity intended to remind store clerks and adults purchasing alcohol to those under the age of 21 is illegal. This project will address youth access to alcohol and community norms that support not providing alcohol to minors.

With the cooperation of nine local retail outlets, the community group members placed over 1,400 stickers on multi-packs of alcohol.

Participants involved in the project was a joint collaborative effort from the Choctaw Community and the City of Philadelphia.

Organizers of the event included: Cynthia D. Pryor, Prevention Coordinator (Underage Drinking) Choctaw Behavioral Health; Ken Butler, Choctaw Director of Public Safety; and Philadelphia Police Chief Richard Sistrunk and Assistant Police Chief Julian Greer.

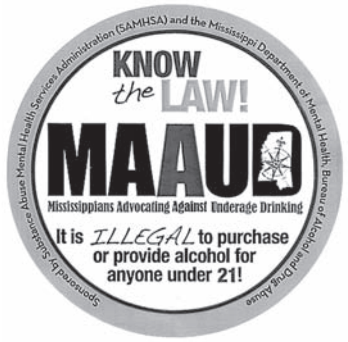
Participants from the Choctaw Community included staff from Choctaw Behavioral Health, the Choctaw Police Department, youths and staff from the Choctaw Alternative School and Choctaw Tribal Teen Court.

Other participants included the Philadelphia Police Department, students from Philadelphia Middle School, Neshoba Central High School, East Central Community College in Decatur and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

The Underage Drinking Prevention Program of Choctaw Behavioral Health would like to thank everyone that made this event a great success.

Participants of the Sticker Shock Program.

ABOVE, *students place stickers on alcohol containers.*


Sponsored by Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
KNOW the LAW!
MAAUD
Mississippians Advocating Against Underage Drinking
It is ILLEGAL to purchase or provide alcohol for anyone under 21!

Event targets underage drinking

On March 26, Cynthia D. Pryor, Prevention Coordinator with Choctaw Behavioral Health, hosted an event at the Boys & Girls Club in Pearl River that focused on alcohol use in the community and the dangers of underage drinking.

Alcohol is the leading substance abuse issue among middle and high school students. The goal was to raise awareness of the extent of underage drinking and its causes and, hopefully, try to get community change and prevention information out there.

The event started with a presentation about underage drinking by Pryor and Sahinna Anderson, followed by Ahinah Alex. Other presenters were Bronson Jim and Harold Comby.

The event also included informational booths, refreshments, family friendly activities such as a cupcake walk, bingo, face painting, basketball, & a pool tournament.

Participants also completed surveys about alcohol use. Over 100 participants attended the event.

The Underage Drinking Prevention Program of Choctaw Behavioral Health would like to thank everyone that made this event a great success.

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Smith retires from work force

submitted by Roger R, Smith

Moyomat Hachi Yakokili
(My Thanks To You All)

I would like to thank the Public Safety Choctaw Law Enforcement Department, Choctaw Fire, EMS Departments, 911 Communication Dispatchers for the planned food sale, raffle tickets event to have a retirement dinner for me on March 27, 2010.

Most of all, I want to express my deepest appreciation to my former co-workers, Howard Tucker, Linda Tubby, Roshanda Dotson, Sindy Lewis, Renada Wallace, Amber Frazier, and to the fearless leader, Kathy Sam, of the 911 Communication Dispatchers, for their hard work, planning, and able to work their regular shift hours to serve the public.

My humble yakoki to Harold "Doc" Comby of the Choctaw Law Enforcement, Capt. Doss with the Choctaw Fire Department, and Capt. Wendell Willis with the Public Safety and Law Enforcement for their kind words. To Theron "Duke" Denson for the entertainment, and to the Silver Star Convention Center dinner hosts for their hospitality.

My grandchildren wanted me to share my gifts with them. Especially the three little ones who thought it was my birthday celebration. I'm glad they enjoyed the event as much as I did.

Roger Smith, left, receives a token of appreciation from Capt. Oddis Doss of the Choctaw Fire Department (C-Shift).

To the Smith and Bell families, and everyone that attended, yakoki for sharing this event with me.

May the Good Lord bless and watch over you. Until then...10-4!

"THE POWER TO CHANGE ANYTHING - PT. 2"

by Pastor Thomas Ben

In last month's issue, we learned that the power to change anything was given to us. In that power we have everything we need to help us develop the kind of life God intended for us to have. We must use that power and make it work for us. As you look at your life, what areas do you see that needs changing?

Is it your marriage, family, or finances? What is it? Once you identify those areas, now realize you have been given the power to change your circumstances.

2 Timothy 1:7 says "... *[He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well balanced mind and discipline and self-control."* (**Amplified Version**)

With this kind of power we are able to change any area of our lives. It's a blessing to know believers all over the world have this power or ability to change anything. If you have not established a relationship with God, start today and receive this same power to change your life.

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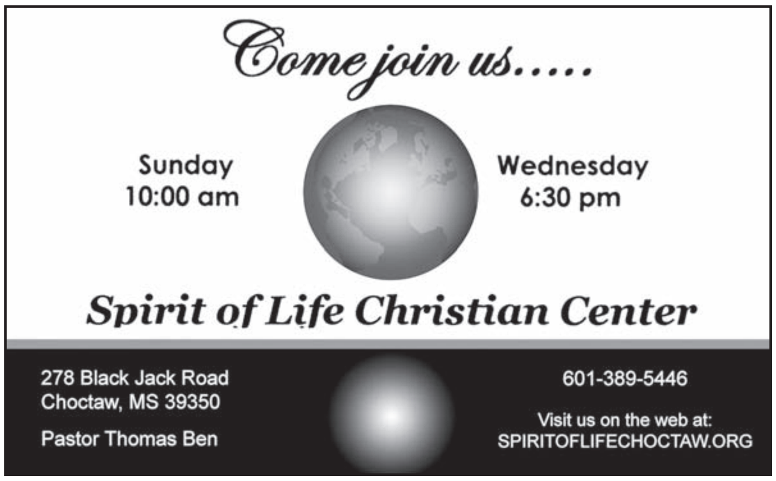
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In Memory

ROSIE WESLEY THOMPSON

Funeral services for Rosie Wesley Thompson, 73, were held Wednesday, April 28, 2010, from the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church. The Rev. Mark Roth & Rev. Ethan Good officiated.

Burial was in the Dancing Rabbit Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Thompson passed away April 25 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a Pentecostal.

She was a retired seamstress.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Cameron Wesley & Julia Bell Wesley; a daughter, Nannie Louise Dixon; a son, Erskin Dixon; sisters, Annie Wallace & Fannie Tubby; brothers, Odean Nickey, Robert Wesley, John Wesley, Bennie Wesley, Barney Wesley, & Rufus Wesley.

Survivors include her daughter, Norma Thompson Willis of Philadelphia; sons, Gilbert Thompson of Choctaw & Gabriel Keith Thompson of Philadelphia; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARCIE DEANNE TUBBY

Funeral services for Marcie Deanne Tubby, 36, were held Monday, May 3, 2010, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Carthage. The Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Tubby passed away April 30 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She graduated from Carthage High School in 1990. Tubby worked various jobs but took on the role of full-time mother.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Madonna Tubby; a brother, Mickey Dwayne Willis; grandparents, Sullivan Tubby, Sr. and Boy & Grace Willis; & a step-brother, Gene Joe, Jr.

Survivors include her children, Gunnar Tubby, Dominic Dixon & Emily Grace Dixon; her partner, Danny Dixon; father & stepmother, Michael & Ava Willis; a sister, Michelle Renee Willis; grandmother, Mary Tubby; step-sister & brother, Eugenia Thomas & Don Ray Joe; & many other relatives & friends.

MARY LOU JEFFERSON

Funeral services for Mary Lou Jefferson, 74, were held Wednesday, May 5, 2010,

..........continued next page

from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Jefferson passed away May 2 at Rush Hospital in Meridian.

She was a Catholic.

She enjoyed spending time with family & friends, playing cards, doing word-find puzzles, fishing, & singing Choctaw hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Beaman Charley & Sudie Johnson Charley; grandparents, Frank Johnson & Lorena Solomon Johnson and Johnson & Onie Wesley Charley; a son, John Charley; grandson, Derrick Neal Thomas; brother, Thomas Ray Charley; sisters, Verdie Mae Chickaway & Annie Dean Thomas; & a great-grandson, Juwan Tyrek Mann.

Survivors include her husband, Clinton Jefferson of Philadelphia; daughters, Susie Thomas, Sherry Jim & Jewel Frazier, all of Conehatta; sisters, Esterline Thomas & Elizabeth Anderson, both of Conehatta; 18 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; an aunt, Delores Ben of Philadelphia; & numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MICHELE WILLIS

Funeral services for Michele Willis, 41, were held Thursday, May 13, 2010, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in Phillips Cemetery in Choctaw. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Willis passed away May 9 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She graduated from the Alabama School for the Deaf in Talladega in 1989.

She was employed as a kitchen helper at the Pearl River Resort. She enjoyed sewing, making crafts & spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Lee Willie & Mable Wilson; paternal grandparents, Dennis & Annie Willis; aunts, Susan Wilson & Marion Willis; & uncles, Edwin Wilson, Raymond Wilson Sr., Kenneth Wilson, & Nelson Wilson.

Survivors include parents, Willie Willis & Gloria Jean Wilson; sister, Andrea Sam; brothers, Jimmy Willis & Israel Willis; a special friend, Jason Wallace; & a host of relatives & friends.

CECILE LEWIS WESLEY

Funeral services for Cecile Lewis Wesley, 84, were held Friday, May 14, 2010, from the Pearl River Mennonite Church in Philadelphia. Pastor Duane Reinhardt & Rev. Glenn Myers officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Wesley passed away May 12 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a homemaker & lived most of her life in the Nanih Waiya community. She was a resident of the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw since 2004.

Her past hobbies included sewing, attending church, singing, gardening, & cooking for guests.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest Lewis & Leona Hickman Willis; husband, John Wesley; daughters, Rita Wesley & Ruth Hickman; a son, Johnny Wesley; a grandson, Bryant Wesley; sisters, Odessa Mingo & Bessie Robinson; brothers, Henry Bell Sr., Burton Bell, Bob Bell, Munch Joe, & Austin Joe.

Survivors include daughters, Joanne Ben of Philadelphia & Janice Lewis of Walnut Grove; sons, John Lewis, Danny Wesley, Edward Wesley, all of Philadelphia, & Jerry Wesley of Pascagoula; 25 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; 23 great-great grandchildren; & a host of nieces & nephews.

SYLVIA LOUISE HICKMAN

Funeral services for Sylvia Louise Hickman, 49, were held Saturday, May 15, 2010, from the Pearl River Baptist Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Phillips Cemetery in Choctaw. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Hickman passed away May 8.

After graduation from Choctaw Central High School, she moved to Macon, GA to further her education & be a homemaker to her children.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie J. Hickman Jr. & Ivoria Willis Johnson; step-father, Anthen Johnson Sr.; & a brother, Leonard Hickman.

Survivors include her special friend, Leonard Wimberly Sr.; daughters, Hopei Childs & Shiquita Childs; a son, Leonard Wimbley Jr., all of Macon, GA; a goddaughter, Mia Newton; brothers, Thaddeus Hickman, Jerry Hickman, Daryl Hickman, Roger Hickman, all of Philadelphia, Jeffery Hickman of Sebastopol, & Anthen Johnson Jr. of Philadelphia; sisters, Donna Williams of Philadelphia, Deborah Bell of Walnut Grove, Angela John of Philadelphia, Miranda Wallace of Philadelphia; a great aunt, Bertha Tubby; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

see OBITUARIES, pg. 30

To Uncle Boki & Sohn

I always loved you, even if I didn't show it & never imagined you leaving me this way... I mean you could have given me warning, I don't know if it would have helped ease the pain, or make it worse to know that you were dying & maybe even suffering, I mean what happened no one knows but you. Your death was a surprise & you left a lot behind, no one will ever know now. But now one will ever forget you, we all loved you & will never get why you had to go. And I hope you're happy up there because if you are then I'm happy too. I never got to say good-bye, so good-bye & I love you.

- Meia

In Loving Memory

Alan Chickaway, Sr.
December 28, 1958 - January 1, 2009

Alfred Chickaway
January 16, 1948 - February 24, 2010

In Loving Memory

Coty Lashane Farmer
January 31, 1987 - June 7, 2009

There is so much I wish to say, I think about you everyday. I miss your laugh, I miss your smile, neither lost nor forgotten. I imagine them often. It just doesn't seem real that your not around. I still look for you everywhere I go. I'll never forget on the 7th of June, as I sat on the curb, tears filled my eyes. I found myself looking for you. Until I realized what was true. I will never again see you wave & your smile. We won't stand on the street & visit for awhile. No "how you doing sis?" with a big pat on the back to follow. No "what are you doing tonight?" or "I'll see ya tomorrow." All of these things, I cherish so dearly. In my heart I remember so clearly. I still talk to you, I know you can hear me. Today I spoke of you and before I finished my sentence, I could feel your presence, then, coincidence or was it a sign? The song that reminds me of you began to play. As if you knew I was thinking of you this day. I smiled, feeling you were there with me again. I sat remembering as tears filled my eyes as I listened to the song. I'm not accepting that you are gone. I've asked myself & I've talked to God. How could he take you away for so long? The only answer making sense is that you're in God's hand now, as he planned. -Meia

OBITUARIES

continued from page twenty-nine

INFANT MILEY RAENELL WILLIAMS

Funeral services for Miley Raenell Williams, year old infant, were held Monday, May 17, 2010, from the Pearl River Baptist Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Henderson Williams officiated.

Burial was in the Canaan Baptist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Infant Williams passed away May 12 in Philadelphia.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Jimpson Williams & Ruby Nell Johnson.

Survivors include her parents, Delana Williams & Derek Hickman; brothers, Tony Williams & Chandler Bell, all of Philadelphia; paternal grandparents, Eric & Gwendolyn Hickman of Philadelphia; uncles, Randolph Williams, Cedric Williams, Simeon Willis, Dudley Williams, Eric Hickman, Merrick Hickman, Feric Hickman, Cedric Hickman, & Aldreca Hickman; aunts, Charlene Williams, Denise Williams, Lucinda Willis, Diane Johnson, Debra Johnson, Denicia Hickman, & Felicia Hickman; & a host of relatives.

EGBERT COTTON

Funeral services for Egbert Cotton, 61, were held Thursday, May 20, 2010, from the Choctaw Christian Church. The Rev. Ethan Good officiated.

Burial was in the Dancing Rabbit Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Cotton passed away May 17 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was a resident of the Choctaw Residential Center since 1997. His hobbies included making stickball & listening to gospel music.

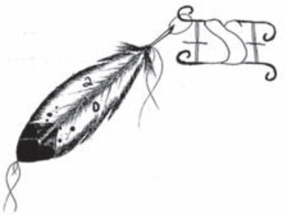
He was preceded in death by his parents, Bennie Wesley & Alice Cotton Clemons; a wife, JoAnn Mata Cotton; brothers, Winston Clemons, Bob Clemons, Lynn Clemons, Jerry Clemons; & sisters, Lillie Joe & Cissie Cotton.

Survivors include sisters, Earline Frazier, Sammie Lou Cotton, Elaine Denson, Dianne Clemons, Geraldine Jeanguneat, Gloria Clemons, Maxine Thomas, Francis Clemons, brothers, Clay Wesley Sr., Benjie Wesley, Joseph Wesley, Bill Clemons, Tommy Clemons, Prentiss Clemons Jr.; two aunts, Helen Phillips & Omelina Steve; & a host of nieces, nephews & relatives.

\SPIRIT HELPERS/

Help a proper person yield, before internal rage
tear holes dangerously at years
The answer merely eagerly lies alone
Among ultimate thinking, under mind negotiations
Sharing often limits other mental or fesses never the less
Move yourself beyond ethical biblical evolution, guide
internal revelations limitlessly
Lift up voices under land of the Stars
Decipher answers diligently
Tredge high in reality to your free outer universe range

SPIRIT HELPERS
Help people Help yourself
Help each other along



McMillan places 2nd at competition

Trisadee McMillan

Congratulations to Trisadee McMillan for placing second in her division for the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competition. She's an Allied Health student & a senior at Neshoba Central High School. Trissy will be competing in the HOSA National Competition in Orlando, Fla., this summer. Also, congratulations for your hard work & accomplishments as you graduate. She is the proud daughter of Angeline & Lee Hickman. From your family, Mom, Lee, Tamara Hathorne & family, Willie, Nikko, & Shanine. We love you & continue to pray & bless you for your outstanding achievements!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 26th Birthday to Amomit Abi Bell on June 9, 2010.

Happy Birthday to Afo King on June 14 & Pokni King on June 16, from the family who loves you!

Happy Birthday to Richard E. Henry on June 22, 2010.

Happy Birthday to Denise B. John on June 11 & to Loretta Williams on June 24, from guess who...

Happy Belated 1st Birthday to Naomi Leona King on May 16 & to Ty Keams who had a birthday on May 30, from everyone who loves ya!

Happy 18th Birthday to the twins, Linda S. Williams & Olivia I. Williams, on June 9. Also, congratulations on your recent graduation from Hartshorne High School in Hartshorne, Okla.! This fall, Olivia will be a pre-med major & Linda a liberal arts major at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton, Okla. Congratulations on your accomplishments, with lots of love, from Mom, John, brothers Maverick, John III, Rick, & sisters Melody & Bethany!

Happy 18th Birthday to Linda Williams & Olivia Williams on June 9, from your Aunt Mavis, Uncle Frank & your cousins Gary, Brittany, Braylan, & Daynon!

Happy 13th Birthday to my son "Fernie" Fernando Herrera Jr. on June 14. With love from your mom, Valerie J. Herrera.

Happy Birthday to our Papo Gary Chickaway on June 18. We all love you Papo! From Kacey, Jaycia, Sindle, Keirian, Mane, Keondre, Hayden, Tylon, Jr., Baby Tinks, & the rest of your family.

Happy 12th Birthday to my niece, Brianna Jean Wesley, on June 14, from your aunt & uncle.

Happy Belated 27th Birthday to my sis Mia Dawn "Pec" on

..........continued next page

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!

Congratulations to Melody Morgan Denson, 18 year-old daughter of Holly & Michael Denson, as she was a 2010 graduate of Choctaw Central High School. We are proud of you Melody. Keep up the good work! Love from your Mom, Hallie & Onna.

May 25, from Shunt, Trav, Yaiya, & Ona.

Happy Birthday to Mary S. Ben on June 17, from YKW.

Happy 21st Birthday to my son Giovanni Jones. We love you very much, from you family - Mom, Dad, Saphire (on May 6)... Happy Birthday to Ryan Jones on May 25, from the Marquez & Jones families.

Happy Birthday to Earline Jones on June 30, from the Marquez & Jones families.

Happy Birthday to my best friends Rachel Tubby on June 29 & Yolandra Hickman on June 15. I wish the best on your birthdays & many more to come!

Happy 3rd Birthday to Cayden Clayree Billy on June 7, 2010. We love you baby girl, from Mommy, Daddy TT, Keyona, Whitebird Frazier. You are growing up so fast (Big Show), from Daddy TT!

Happy Birthday to Ari on May 25, 2010. Don't over do it. From Chanda, Chandler & Butch Billy.

Happy Birthday to Cayden Clayree Billy on June 7, 2010. We love you Big Show, from Chanda, Butch & Chandler Billy.

Happy Belated Birthday to Zorro Clayton, from #13.

Happy Belated Birthday to our dad, Thomas R. Jim, Sr., on May 11. We love you so much, from Thomas Jr., Todd, Deanna, Aylissa, Layla, & Shelton Jim.

Happy Belated Birthday to our Grandpa, Thomas Jim, Sr., on May 11. We love you, from Daisyanna, Duane Jr., Bobby, DelKembee, & Quinton John.

Happy Belated Birthday to Martina (Tropical Punch) Chickaway on June 2, from Tornado & Tropical Storm.

Happy Belated 5th Birthday to our son, Bobby Lee John, on June 17. We love you (boy), from Mommy & Daddy.

Ashanti & Thomas welcome their niece, Alivia Renee Stell, into the family on March 24, 2010. Also, Happy Belated Birthday to LeShawn Renee Amos on April 4.

Happy Belated 8th Birthday to Lonzo B. Thomas on May 30, from your loved ones... Happy 8th Birthday to Miss Ashanti Leaeh Phillips on June 20, from your loved ones... Happy Belated 17th Birthday to Jesus Sardina Jr. & Mary Monk on May 1 & also Happy Belated 16th Birthday to Carlos Sardina, from your family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Arman D. Jefferson on April 15 & Happy Belated Birthday to Jacqueline Comby on the 19th. I love you, from Marcus D. Jefferson, Harriet, Chumani & Jesenia.

Happy Belated Mother's Day to Melissa Jim. We love you, from Aylissa, Layla, Shelton, & Deanna.

Happy Belated Mother's Day to Peggy Shoemake. I love you, from "DEE."

Happy Father's Day to Duane John, Sr. We love you daddy, from Daisyanna, Duane Jr., Bobby, DelKembee, & Quinton John.

Happy Father's Day to Thomas Jim, Sr. We all love you, from Thomas Jr., Todd, Deanna, Aylissa, Layla, & Shelton.

Happy Belated Birthday to my sister & niece, Maria & Autum, on the 27th, love Jackie.

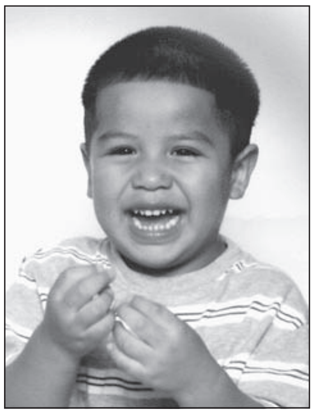
Happy Birthday to Leran Jefferson, Jr. on June 26, love from your family, Marcus, Jackie, Harriet, Chumani, & Jesenia... also to my grandma, Sarah Jim, on June 14, love Jackie & the girls.

Happy 20th Birthday to Cinda Denson on June 25. We love you... Happy Birthday to Michelle Denson on June 2. Love you so much... Happy Birthday to our loving grandmother, Lucille Chickaway, on June 27. We love you, from the Denson Family... Happy 21st Birthday to Erica Tubby on June 2, from the Denson Family... Happy Belated Birthday to our handsome nephew, Mr. Hayden Joe Denson, from Grandma Helen & Aunts Cinda, Nicole, Marie, & Julie (a.k.a. Big Momma) & uncles.

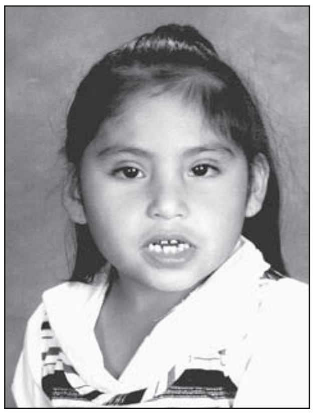
Sonja Monk celebrated her ?? birthday on April 10 at the Southern Miss Golden Eagles Powwow. Sonja is president of the Golden Eagles Intertribal Society student organization that hosted the annual powwow. Happy Birthday Sonja! Go Eagles!

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS to three wonderful ladies, Ms. Imidrian York on June 11, Ms. Michelle Willis in Okla. on June 15 & Cecile Renae Willis on June 29, from your family.

Happy Birthday to "Captain" Morgan on June 16. Go ahead & overdo it!

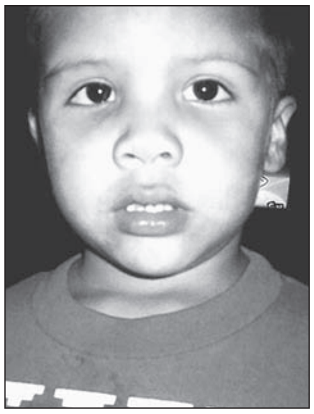


Happy 3rd Birthday to our precious baby boy Mr. T. J. Raynes Thomas on June 13, 2010. Hugs & kisses to you from Mommy, lil Caleb, Papo & Mamo Steve & the rest of the family.



Happy 5th Birthday to our daughter Precious Aba Shilombish Osi "Yaiya" on June 28. We love you, from Mommy, Daddy Travis, Baby Sister Traviona, Papo Ranchie, & Mamo Wanda.

Happy 7th Birthday to our Lil' Miss Leilani "Bo" Charlie, who will celebrate her birthday on June 15! No matter how old you get, you will always be our "Baby Girl", wishing you a happy day & many more to come. We all love you! Hugs & kisses from all the family!



Happy 4th Birthday to Tylon Chickaway on June 11. We all love you so much Baby Boy, from all your family.

Happy Birthday on the 28th of May, from your loved ones LaChrisha, Sonney, Seth, & Speed.

Happy 15th Birthday to Kristen Michelle Dixon on June 1, from Mom & Dad.

TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF REV. ADRIAN T. ROSS, A BROTHER-IN-CHRIST, ON JUNE 17, 2010

With an opulence of love as a Christian brother, I share these words with you. You know from experience that life has its share of ups & downs. Yet, upon your abdication to God, I know your zeal would never be diverged.

You bestow love & hope in the lives of others in the name of our Lord. And, it is your qualitative characteristic of wisdom that speaks into the hearts of those you cross path with Rev. Ross, I have much faith in you your quest.

Over the years I've known you, I have seen growth & development. And, I do commend you on holding your faith in God. Continue your daily invocations, with an open heart, mind & soul. Thank you for always being there along side of me, reminding me to never lose sight of God. With your love, help & support, life is looking real blessed.

Celebrate the joy of Heaven's bliss on your birthday. Thank you for giving to the Lord; I am so glad you gave.

Your Brother-In-Christ,
Mr. Jared Jaye Jim

With Love from all of us to You, You & You!

To Jimmy, you are a great brother who brings encouragement of hope into our lives. The knowledge & wisdom that lies within you shines a "ray of love" to all those who come in contact with you. May God bless you & keep you close on June 8, 2010, as you become a year younger.

To Bianca, count your blessings one by one & know that God is with you always, even when it feels like you are alone. A true inspiration you are, to all of us who know you. Such a special niece you are & we hold you dearly in our hearts. We wish you a Happy Birthday as you begin a new chapter in life on June 4, 2010.

To Brayton, life is nothing short of a miracle for you are with us, in accordance to God's will. We want you to bring lots of happiness to those you love. Take care of your mother and brother, as always, little man! Never lose sight of God and his love. Nephew, enjoy your special day and absorb our love for you in your heart on June 8, 2010.

You are all loved unconditionally and endlessly. And you are all here in our hearts, thoughts & prayers.

From the family,
Mrs. Thelma Barnes & family
Ms. Daisy Jim & family
Mrs. Peggy Davis & family
Mrs. Loula Jim & family
Mr. Jimmy Jim & family
Mr. Barry Jim, Sr. & family
Mr. Davis Jim & family
Mr. Jared Jim & family
Aunt Mrs. Susie Willis

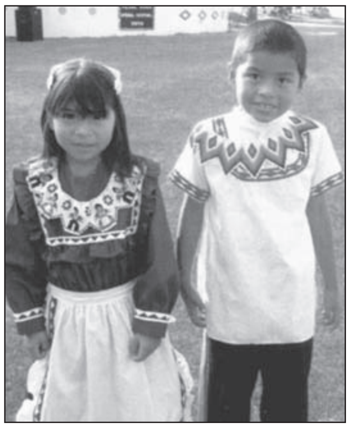
Happy Belated Mother's Day to Chelsie Danielle Tubby

Happy Mothers Day to Minnie Willis. We love you, from Ken, Keyona, Whitebird, Cayden Frazier, & Gwen. Thank you for always being there when we need you, Mom!

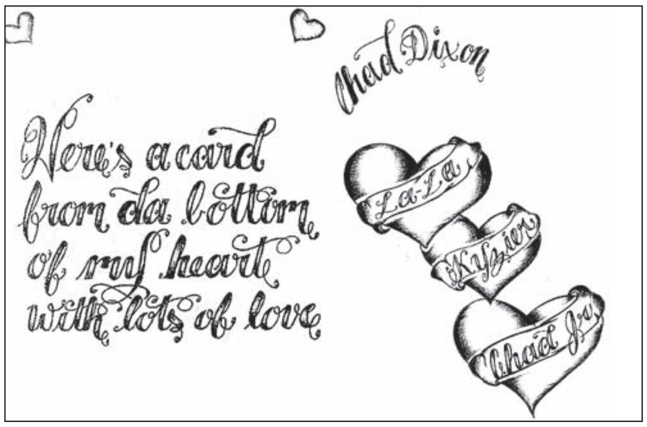
Happy Mothers Day Gwen, from TT, Keyona, Cayden, Whitebird Frazier. I love you. Good Luck! Me & the kids love you so much.

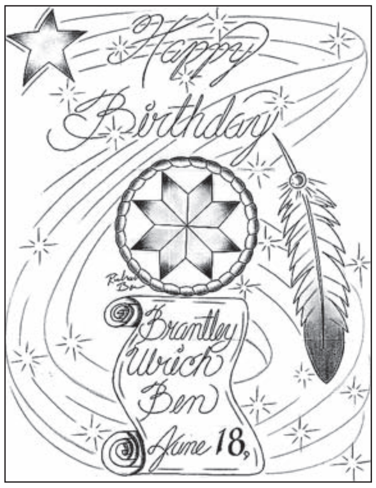
Happy Mothers Day to Chanda D. Billy, from Butch & Chandler Billy.

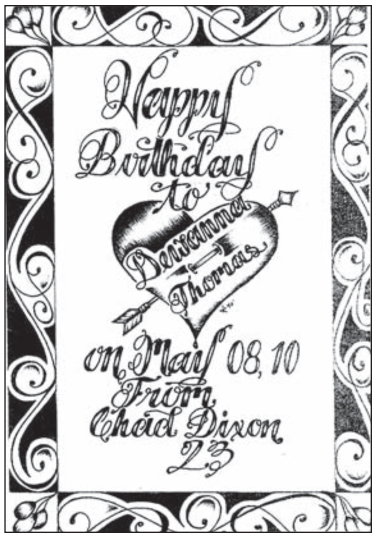
We wish Monty Henry a very Happy 10th Birthday on June 20, 2010. With love from all of us, Mom, Dad, Peyton, Uncles Jeremy & Daryl, Papo Jerome, Papo Doby, Mamo Kash, Mamo Lisa, Mamo Hattie, & Auntie Becky.



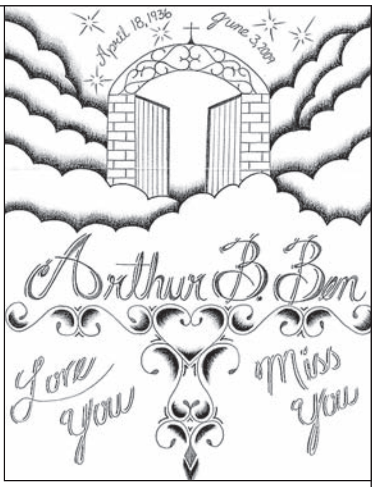
We're wishing yall another year of laughter, joy, fun, surprises, love, & happiness. When your birthdays are done, we hope you feel deep in your hearts how much you both mean to us, more than you both will know. Happy 6th Birthday to Rosa "Rosalita" Shoemake on June 25 & Happy 7th Birthday to our big boy Cameron Shoemake on June 21. We love you so much, from Mommie, Silvio, your step-dad, Mamo, & your aunts & uncles.







TO MY GRANDFATHER, REV. ARTHUR BRANTLEY BEN



It's been a year since your passing & your journey to heaven above. The whole family misses you dearly & will always love you. You've done wonders for your wife & family. We appreciate all that you've done for us. It's sad knowing you're not here with us, but happiness springs to mind for you are in a better place with God. There is not a time that goes by when I think about you that brings tears to my eyes but with a smile too because I know you're looking down upon us from heaven. Grandpa, I love you very much & miss you. I can still remember your guitar playing & singing you did for me & your other grandchildren when we were kids. You were a very talented musician. I guess that's where Elijah, dad & myself get it from. Times I came & visited you, I'd always gave you a hug & kiss. I really miss all of that. You were a very special person in my life. We, the family, wish you a Happy Birthday on April 18 & we will always have you in our thoughts & be talking to you in our prayers. Will always love you, grandpa, forever, eternity & beyond.

Love you always, Richard Ben

CHOCTAW
COMMUNITY
NEWS

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JUNE 2010

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CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 7 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 JULY 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

From left, Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, Tribal First Lady Lena Denson & Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson listen as Billy Mills addresses the 2010 Choctaw Central High School graduates.

Mills encourages graduates to overcome perceptions

Billy Mills, one of Indian Country's greatest contemporary heroes, addressed Choctaw Central High School graduates during graduation ceremonies held Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw, MS.

Mills, an Oglala Lakota (Sioux) distance runner, was the 1964 Olympic gold medal winner in the 10,000 meter run. He is the second Native American to win an Olympic gold medal and the only American to win the gold in the 10,000 meter run.

Mills was introduced by

...see GRADUATES, pg. 7

61ST ANNUAL
CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR
JULY 14-17, 2010
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI
Visit www.choctawindianfair.com

Join us as we celebrate the 61st anniversary of the Choctaw Indian Fair in beautiful Choctaw, Mississippi. Enjoy four fun-filled days of Choctaw culture and spirit including Tribal arts, crafts, dances, foods, and the thrilling action of World Championship Stickball. The Fair offers fun for young and old alike, from exhilarating rides and contests to well-known entertainment. There's something for everyone at the Choctaw Indian Fair.

For more information call 601.650.7450
This is a Non-alcoholic, Family Event

STATE GAMES OF

2010 State Games of Mississippi opens

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Princess Famie Willis participated in the opening ceremonies of the 19th Annual State Games of Mississippi in downtown Meridian on June 18, 2010. Over 2,000 amateur athletes from across the state took part in the parade of athletes. An estimated 5,000-10,000 were in attendance to welcome the athletes and enjoy entertainment, fireworks and the lighting of the torch. **ABOVE**, Choctaw Princess Famie Willis was among the dignitaries who enjoyed the fireworks show. **RIGHT**, Willis poses with Meridian Mayor Cheri Barry.

Conehatta captures gold in 2010 State Games stickball

The Conehatta youth stickball team (ages 9-12) captured gold medals in the 2010 State Games of Mississippi stickball tournament with a win over Bok Cito 7-0 in the finals June 26 at Choctaw Central High School's Warrior Stadium in Choctaw. Bok Cito received silver medals with the loss. Beaver Dam claimed the bronze medals with a 9-4 win over Unified in the consolation contest.

FROM THE OFFICE OF
MI̱KO
BEASLEY
DENSON
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
1945
Beasley Denson

Our 2010 Choctaw Indian Fair

Halito! It is time for the 61st annual Choctaw Indian Fair! Every summer since 1949, we have invited the world to come have a good time on our reservation. We offer four days of music, culture and fun to visitors from across the country. Our Fair has become an institution and is one of the top ten summer events in the Southeast.

It is similar to our famous baskets we display across the Reservation. For centuries, we have woven beautiful works of art out of swamp cane gathered from local creek banks. With our Fair, we weave various aspects of our culture in with great entertainment to create an event that is one of a kind.

This year's musical line up includes Motown legends, the Four Tops and country music chart toppers Tracy Lawrence, the Lost Trailers and Sara Evans. Also on the bill is Aboriginal Entertainer of the Year, Shane Yellowbird.

All this great music will provide the soundtrack to the crowning of the 2010 Choctaw Indian Princess and cultural exhibitions like our social dancing, traditional dress, blowgun demonstrations and basket weaving.

This year, for the first time, we are very proud to present a drama based on the history of our Tribe. The Choctaw Journey is a dramatic reenactment of our tribe's road through many hardships and ends with the recent of reclamation of our "mother mound", Nanih Waiya.

There is no more exciting demonstration of Choctaw tradition and culture than when Tribal members pick up the kabocca and towa. They will do battle just as past generations have and demonstrate to our visitors one of the elements of our unique culture - a culture that makes us who we are and ties us together as a Tribe and as a family.

While Choctaw traditions belong to the Choctaw people, the Choctaw Indian Fair is our opportunity to share them with our friends, neighbors and visitors. I hope everyone will do everything they can to show our guests what Choctaw is really about. There is much going on both on the Reservation and off. The economy is still struggling and has made things hard for working people here and across the country. Tribes, cities, counties, states and even entire nations are dong everything they can to find the income needed to survive. There are political battles being fought between the two major political parties at the national level, there are disagreements between well-known state and federal officials and our Tribe and even within our Tribe there are divisions. I hope that we can put these things aside temporarily, enjoy some time with our families, friends and visitors from near and far during the Fair. Lets work together to make it a success and a good time for all.

More Housing for Tribal Members

I am happy to announce that we have set a date for the ground breaking and the start of construction on 32 new units! It will take place on July 9th at Frog Level and they should be available for our elderly, disabled and veterans by May of 2011.

..........continued next page

Pictured from left are Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, First Lady Lena Denson, Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis, & Tribal Council member Peter Steve of Tucker at Turner Field in Atlanta.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Bradley Isaac .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, JULY 23, AT 12 NOON.

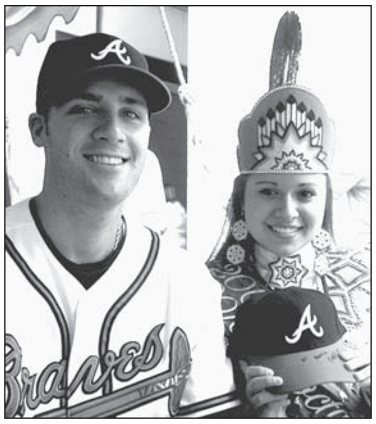
Tribe acquires new patrol vehicles

CHOCTAW JUSTICE
CHOCTAW
POLICE
911
601-656-5711
NON EMERGENCY

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Department of Public Safety recently acquired five 2009 Dodge Chargers. The purchase of these new patrol vehicles was made possible through a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Tribal Resource Grant. The COPS Tribal Resource Grant is a competitive grant that is available to Native American tribes for the purchasing of law enforcement equipment.

Pictured above, Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, right, along with MBCI Chief of Staff Barry McMillan, left, & MBCI Director of Public Safety Kenneth Butler, second from left, stand in front of a new patrol car acquired by the Tribe through a COPS Resource Grant.

B.S.C.I.
McCOMB, MS



ABOVE, *Staff members & elders of the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center in Pearl River return from watching the Braves in Atlanta.* **RIGHT**, *Braves pitcher Eric O'Flaherty & Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis.*

Elders Travel to Atlanta for Braves Game

On Friday, May 28th, I had the pleasure of travelling to Atlanta with a group of our Tribal elders to enjoy an Atlanta Braves game. The Braves have been a big part of our marketing campaign at the Resort and the visibility we get from our arrangement has helped revenues immensely during this slow economy. They are always glad when we come to visit and this year, like the last two years, they rolled out the red carpet for us.

About 53 Tribal elders made the trip and enjoyed meeting Braves pitcher Eric O'Flaherty, a meal, good seats for the game and fireworks. I believe our elders brought the team the luck they needed. The Braves beat the Pirates 8 to 3.

Beasley Denson

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

Groundbreaking at Frog Level set for July 9

The Tribe was awarded $2.98 million dollars for the construction of thirty-two (32) houses in a new subdivision on Frog Level Road in Pearl River. The houses will be rental properties managed by the Choctaw Housing Authority and designated for Tribal members who are elderly, disabled or veterans regardless of their home community.

Mi̱ko Beasley Denson will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on July 9. The houses are expected to be completed by May 2011.

"As I have said from the beginning, building houses for Tribal members is a priority to me. I am pleased that we were able to leverage federal stimulus dollars to build these 32 new houses. I will continue to work with the Housing Authority and the Tribal Housing program to aggressively pursue housing funding, build more houses, and move more Tribal members into their own homes," said Mi̱ko Denson.

The funds were awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as stimulus dollars. The houses will be built using the latest environmentally friendly technology and will be "green certified" by the National Association of Home Builders.

Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Special Call Meeting
May 19, 2010

Resolution CHO 10-083, authorizing an on-site liquor license to El Potrillo of Philadelphia, LLC for the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, was adopted 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-084, authorizing distribution of Tribal funds, was adopted 17 in favor, 0 abstaining, 0 opposed.

Resolution CHO 10-086, approving FY 2011 Tribal School Budgets, was adopted 15 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-087, approving the Choctaw Tribal School System Staff Handbook, the High School & Middle School Parent-Student Handbook & the Elementary Parent-Student Handbook for the 2010-11 school year, was adopted 15 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-088, approving the 2010-11 School Calendar, was adopted 15 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-089, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between Developing Resources for Education in America ("DREAM") & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Division of Schools, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-090, authorizing the approval of a business lease between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians d/b/a Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise & Trustmark National Bank, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-091, accepting an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Grant, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-092, accepting a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce-Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-093, accepting an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant to fund certain industrial renovations & to amend the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise Capital Budget to allow for matching funds, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-094, applying for FY 2009 Environmental Grants from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-095, disposing of surplus donated items, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-096(B), approving name change & increase in Blood Degree for previously enrolled Tribal member, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-097(B), approving Tribal enrollments, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Small Business Resources for Tribal Members

Promoting entrepreneurship has been a priority for Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and, over the past years, the tribal government has worked hard to improve the resources available to tribal members looking to start a business. Listed below are some of these resources available through tribal programs and our partners.

Do you need help planning your business?

Choctaw Small Business Development Center - The Tribe offers technical assistance to Choctaw entrepreneurs at the Choctaw Small Business Development Center (SBDC). If you would like help in developing your business plan contact Ms. DeeSandra Ben, the Tribe's Small Business Coordinator. Ms. Ben has a variety of resources available to assist entrepreneurs.

U.S. Small Business Development Center - The Tribe also works closely with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) office. Mr. Ronnie Westbrook, Program Director, provides advanced technical assistance to tribal members. Mr. Westbrook has offices at East Central Community College in Decatur, as well as the Neshoba County Business Enterprise Center. To schedule an appointment, contact Mr. Westbrook at 601.635.6296 or email at rwestbrook@eccc.edu.

Do you need funding for your business?

Choctaw Entrepreneurial Loan Program – The Tribe offers small business loans through the Choctaw Entrepreneurial Loan Fund

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NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Billy Mills, left, Ogala Lakota (Sioux) & 1964 Olympic gold medal winner, toured the Choctaw Museum on May 26, 2010. He was the guest speaker for Choctaw Central High School's graduation ceremony May 25. Pictured with Mills is Public Information Director Wilma Simpson.

Choctaw NAGPRA Conference

Five representatives of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) attended Speaking of the Choctaw Ancestors, a Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Consultation Conference in Moundville, Ala., from May 19-21, 2010. The event was co-sponsored by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma & University Museums (Alabama), through a National Park Service NAGPRA Consultation Grant. Dr. Ian Thompson, Tribal Archaeologist & NAGPRA Specialist with the Choctaw Nation, coordinated the event bringing representatives of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, MBCI & the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians together with anthropologists & Moundville Archaeological Park staff. The scope of presentations & discussions were designed to connect Choctaw cultural identity prior to European contact to NAGPRA. Pictured above from left are representatives Dr. Kenneth York, Ken Carleton, Roseanna Thompson, Dr. Patricia Galloway, Sonja Monk, & Sean Gantt.

On May 4, 11 & 18, 2010, the CPP conducted collar necklace beading workshops at the Institute of Chahta Immi. Lorena Alex, Trudy Jimmie, Judy Gibson, & Evaline Davis passed on their skills to folks of all ages interested in making their own beadwork. Keep watching for upcoming workshops.

On Friday, May 21, 2010, on their way to A Tribute to American Veterans in Jackson, Miss., Navajo Code Talkers Samuel Tso, Bill Toledo & Albert Smith toured Choctaw, Miss., stopping by the Choctaw Museum & the Institute of Chahta Immi where they were entertained by Bruce Jim.

(CELF). This program offers loans up to $200,000 to fund qualified, small businesses. In order to receive a loan, an eligible tribal member will need to have a solid business plan, a good credit history and be able to provide a down payment of up to 30 percent of the expected start-up costs. To learn more about the CELF please contact Ms. DeeSandra Ben.

Other Funding Sources – If the CELF is not right for you, there are a variety of other ways to fund your business start-up. The BIA, USDA and SBA offer various loan and loan guarantee programs to help small businesses get started. For more information on these programs please contact Ms. DeeSandra Ben.

Do you need a facility for your business?

Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise - The CSCE manages a wide variety of commercial facilities including retail, restaurant, office, industrial and other types of commercial space. Eligible tribal member businesses receive a discount off the market rates in order to help them be more successful. If you want to learn more about space for rent on the Choctaw Reservation please contact Ms. DeeSandra Ben.

Neshoba Business Enterprise Center - The Neshoba Business Enterprise Center is a small business incubator designed to provide office, manufacturing and/or warehouse space to start-up businesses. It is located in the Industrial Park and is operated under the Community Development Partnership. Tenants of the Enterprise Center are normally allowed to stay in the center for three years. After three years they "graduate" and move to other space in the area, making room for new start-up businesses. The Enterprise Center offers shared services such as copier, fax, scanner and printer functions and a common break room, training room and reception area. Wireless internet is available in the building at no cost to the tenants. For more information contact the Community Development Partnership at 601.656.1000.

So what's next?

The Choctaw SBDC is making some big plans for 2010-2011. The Program is planning a series of Advanced Technical Assistance related to Federal Government Contracting, International Business, and Venture Capital funding. They will also offer a Certified Entrepreneur Program in partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi. Choctaw Central High School is also planning a new one-year course to teach high school students about entrepreneurship and money management. Please watch the *Community News* for exciting announcements about these programs, or contact Ms. DeeSandra Ben to learn more today.

To learn more about these resources please contact Ms. DeeSandra Ben, Small Business Coordinator. She can be reached at 601.650.1612 or via email at dben@choctaw.org. Her office is located in the Office of Economic Development, Choctaw TechParc Building A - Suite 2.

The CPP is developing a series of ramadas for the *Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi* (Choctaw Ways Path) to bring hands-on culturally relevant children's activities to the dance ground area during the 2010 Choctaw Indian Fair.

Petty Charity Ride visits Choctaw

On May 6, the Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America stopped in Choctaw, Miss., at the Pearl River Resort on its 3,800-mile trek from Indian Wells, Ca. to Randleman, N.C. to raise awareness of & funds for Victory Junction. Founded by Petty & his wife, Pattie, Victory Junction provides a medically-sound camping experience to children with chronic & terminal illnesses.

From left, Priscilla Williams, Phyllis McMillan, Nellie Billy, (not pictured Amanda Bell, Andrew Willis, & Patty Billy) of the CPP performed cultural storytelling in the Choctaw language for the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

The wardrobe committee of the CPP have been hard at work on authentic 1800s style dresses to be worn during "Choctaw Journey-Chahta Alheha Anowa", a play to be presented during the 2010 Choctaw Indian Fair at the Amphitheater on Thursday, July 15 at 7 p.m.

Is your child ready to learn?
Put in an application for
Early Childhood today!

We provide learning opportunities for child development for children ages 8 weeks to 5 years.

For more information, contact your local
Early Childhood Center:
Bogue Chitto 601-656-7224
*Bogue Homa 601-425-4044
Conehatta 601-775-3845
*Crystal Ridge 662-779-0632
Pearl River Day Care
601-656-9221
Pearl River Head Start
601-650-1719
Pearl River Early Head Start
601-389-2899
Red Water
601-298-9282
Standing Pine
601-298-1580
Tucker
601-389-2053
*Immediate enrollment available

Cherokee and Choctaw school officials and Choctaw Tribal officials pose for a picture at Choctaw Central High School. The Cherokee officials visited the Tribe to learn how the Choctaw Tribal Schools had reached Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and to share ideas with the CTS officials.

Cherokee educators visit tribe

Recently, a group of educators from the Eastern Band of Cherokee School System came to Choctaw, Miss., to learn more about the Mississippi Choctaw Tribal School System. The group included high school and middle school faculty members, and one "central office" official. The Cherokee School System is attempting to reach Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and wanted to see how the Choctaw Tribal School System had met their goals for AYP.

The group met with Dr. Greg Carlyle, principal at Choctaw Central High School, Rodney Tadlock, principal at Choctaw Central Middle School, Peggy Crowe, Choctaw Tribal Schools Curriculum Specialist, and Dalton Henry, Tribal Education Services Officer.

They were also welcomed by Joshua Thomas, CCHS Student Body President, and Famie Willis, 2009-2010 Choctaw Indian Princess and CCHS senior.

The group members were each given an opportunity to enter a classroom and listen as teachers and students went through a lesson.

On the second day, the Cherokee educators shadowed the same people from the day before, had a tour of the Occupational Training Center and then had lunch at the Warrior Café.

The exchange of ideas between the two school systems was a great benefit to

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Choctaw Tribal Schools announce fourth nine weeks honor roll

The Choctaw Tribal School System released the fourth nine weeks honor rolls recently. Students named to the Mi̱ko's List averaged 90 or higher. Students named to the Principal's List averaged 80 or higher.

BOGUE CHITTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko's List

First grade - Daysia Henry & Cheyan Robinson.

Second grade - Michael Bell Jr., Julian Joe & Kendrick Wesley.

Third grade - Sasha Cotton.

Fourth grade - Ashley Henry & Jade Willis.

Principal's List

First grade - Chaney Billy, Katelyn John & Quentin McClelland.

Second grade - Dakota Bautista, Gabriel Clemmons, Dewayne Cotton Jr., Ryan Henry, & Jillian Lasiloo.

Third grade - Breanda Ben, Brianna Ben, Draven Cotton, Isiaha Dixon, Shawn Isaac, .Jamion Johnson, Tayler Morris, Canaan Nickey, Bradley Tubby, & Kenyatta Willis.

Fourth grade - Miliyah Bell, Gabrielle Crosby, Emillo Frazier, Summer John, Ethan King, Brittney Mingo, India Samuel, Hope Thames, & Breanna Tubby.

Fifth grade - Brandis Johnnson, Raina King, Relissia Ray, & Kameron Samuel.

Sixth grade - Peyton Bell, Kenji Brown & Jasmine Hickman.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mi̱ko's List

Ninth grade - Onnahinli Denson & Lanena John.

Eleventh grade - John Hickman, Joshua Hickman, Antonia Jim, Jayson Wallace, Kursten Watkins, & Sonya Willis.

Twelfth grade - Amelia Ben, Cassandra Hickman, & Famie Willis.

Principal's List

Ninth grade - Mary Bell, Brianna Ben, Kristen Dixon, David Hall, Marilina Joe, Nicklaus Shumake, & Halle Wilson.

Tenth grade - Sidney Butler, Jasmine Comby, Alexander Glass, Brandon Hickman, Nicholas Isaac, & Shauna Lewis.

Eleventh grade - Anissa Allen, Sahinna Anderson, Joshua Farmer, Anthony Frazier, Laettner Johnson, Tasha Laird, Julianne Lewis, Anthony Martin, Rosanita McMillan, Jeremy Mingo, Shelby Mingo, & Marcus Sockey.

Twelfth grade - Hillary Allen, Jacob Bell, Mariah Clemons, Randolph Cotton, Melody Denson, Rachel Dixon, Donovan Garcia, Rakisha Guyette, Norma C. Isaac, Ty Isaac, Ricky Mingo, Trisilla Willis.

Teacher's List

Twelfth grade - Kearia Bell.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal's List

Christian Deon, Deon

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GRADUATES

continued from page one

Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson. Before Mills addressed the students, a clip of his 1964 victory was shown to the audience. He then approached the podium and spoke about his life.

He talked about how a person's life is filled with perceptions, how difficult it was for him to overcome perceptions growing up, and how he was still perceived negatively even after his historic victory. Through it all, Mills persevered, and he encouraged the graduates to do the same.

After his address, Mi̱ko Denson and the graduates presented him with gifts, which included a Choctaw basket, stickball sticks and a ball.

Valedictorian honors went to Hillary Ashton Allen, with a GPA of 4.11. Ty Craig Isaac, with a GPA of 4.0, was named salutatorian.

Allen, daughter of Michael and Sally Allen of the Pearl River community, was a Mi̱ko's and Principal's List honor student throughout her four years at CCHS.

She participated in the Beta and Pride Clubs and received awards for English IV, Beta, and Family Dynamics. She was selected to participate in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leaders Conference. Allen was also selected as a Mississippi Scholar. Her plans for the fall are to attend Meridian Community College and study psychiatry.

Isaac, son of Ralph and Penny Isaac of the Standing Pine community, was a member of the Beta and FBLA Clubs. As a senior, he was a member of the football team.

Isaac has been a Mi̱ko's and Principal's List honor student throughout his four years at CCHS. He received awards for U.S. History and Human Anatomy & Physiology. He was also selected as a Mississippi Scholar. In the fall, Isaac plans to attend Meridian Community College and begin his studies for a degree in polymer science.

Members of the Class of 2010 also include Taylor Allen, Dekota Anderson, Foy Anderson, Shilandera Anderson, Jacob Bell, Kearia Bell, Martika Bell, Amber Ben, Amelia Ben, Nicolas Charlie, Mariah' Clemons, Robin Comby, Randolph Cotton, Melody Denson, Dimitri Dixon, Dylan Dixon, Rachel Dixon, Alan Edwards, Matthew Evans, Brandi Farve, Dominique Frazier, Donovan Garcia, Frankie Garcia, Christian Gibson, Rakisha Guyette, Cassandra Hickman, Shawna Hickman, Joe Isaac, Norma Isaac, Nehemiah Lewis, Shuntalidia Lewis, Vandy Lewis, Kahlon Logan, Wesley Martin,

Lee McMillan, Kendrick McWilliams, Ricky Mingo, Jason Morris, Raven Morris, Anistasia Nickey, Courtney Nickey, Krystal Robinson, Amber Smith, Ethan Smith, Kelley Sockey, Rickashay Sockey, Ashley Tangle, Crystal Thomas, Joshua Thomas, Lisa Thomas, Ariel Thompson, Davian Thompson, Sable Thompson, Christina Tubby, Mahlih Vaughn, Ashland Wallace, Habinah Wallace, Shonda Wesley, Wensley Wesley, Cheyenne Willis, Christopher Willis, Deidre Willis, Famie Willis, Irvin Willis, Joslynn Willis, Kedrian Willis, Le Willis, Shilia Willis, Trisilla Willis, and Brianna Windham.

Denson, Travis Dumont, Reagan Hickman, Nikkole Isaac, Kandace Lasiloo, James Lilly, Juan-Diego McMillan, LaShayla McMillan, Craig Nickey, Calvin Roberts, Tiffani Riggen, Jada Sockey, Lindsey Solomon, Kerigan Wesley, Dalen Wheeler, Brandy Willis, Ozzie Willis, & Shawn Wishork.

Teacher's List

Breanna Isom, Tia Jimmie, Brittany Thompson, Trinity Tubby, & Kobe York.

CONEHATTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko's List

First grade - Tiana Jim, Shantashia John, Jayden Mack, Jaiden Thomas, & Anastasia Williamson.

Second grade - Justina Hall & Matt Jimmie.

Third grade - Dillon Farmer, Mathis Hall, Cameron Jenkins, Makayla Jenkins, Larena McMillan, Hayden Nickey, Hunter Smith, Jessamine Thomas, & Tara Willis.

Fourth grade - Yunish Billy, Jocoby Thompson & Caleb Williamson.

Sixth grade - Coby Smith.

Eighth grade - Stephanie Shoemake.

Principal's List

First grade - Lane Farmer, Alexander Gibson, Billie Isom, Deeshayna Jefferson, Afton Johnson, Kelin Kelly, Alarys Martin, Keondre Nickey, Cassie Thomas, Javy Thompson, Katrel Thomas, Dimonte Williams, & Brannon Wilson.

Second grade - Haylin Anderson, Leona Billy, James Grant, Christi Lewis, Tajion Shumake, Jalen Willis, Loriganon Willis, & Deshane Wishork.

Third grade - Kyle Allen, Murphy King, Anfernee Thomas, & Jayna Thomas.

Fourth grade - Hannah Anderson & Lorenzo Shoemake.

Fifth grade - Madison Dixon, Megan Jim, Melody Jimmie, Hannah Lewis, Mya Williamson, & Casson Wilson.

Sixth grade - Dylanna Charlie, Shaylon Farmer, Harvey McMillan, Laraya McMillan, Michael Mitch, & Keynon Wilson.

Seventh grade - Derald Isom, Keaton Taylor & Garrett Thomas.

Eighth grade - Bridgette Anderson, Devon Mingo, Jonica Thomas, & Kurtland Williamson.

PEARL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko's List

First grade - Caden Bell, Melayney Billy, Kearson Grisham, Charlita Gibson, Evangeline Hall, Marylee Hall, Angeleighia Hickman, Kyler Jefferson, Brannon Jim, Brighton Jimmie, Cohen Keats, Destiny Mingo, Isley Mingo, Krissy Shoemake, Ammery Thompson, Ciji Vaughn, Jasmine Velez, Sierra Wallace, Gage Wesley, & Jalissa Williams.

Second grade - Jaden Alex, Dalen Anderson, Kashden Bell, Alize Billy, Jayson Briscoe, Karl Butler, Kessler-Rea Clemmons, Dantzler Clemons, Makaylie Denson, Memorie Henry, Connery Hodges, Ja'Shuntaye Isaac, Jaiden Jackson, Melanian Jimmie, Cori Keats, Azalius Lewis, Colin Martin, Krystin Martin, Jasmine McMillan, Rayven McMillian, Hunter Orduno, Jayden Poncho, McKenzie Samuel, Gaston Wesley, Jalen Williams, Martina Willis, & Megan Willis.

Third grade - Xavier Sam, Winona Tubby & Tatiana Willis.

Fourth grade - Abby Billy, Shayla Chickaway, Trajan Fielder, Taylor Griffin, Brayton Jim, Asa Jimmie, Jazlynn Lewis, Antonio Perez, Hailey Williams, & Reyes Willis.

Fifth grade - Tyson Griffin, Katarina McMillan & Emily Scobee.

Sixth grade - Bryce Billy, Breanna Isaac, Montel Jordan, Nicholas McMillan, Emilee Thames, Hananiah Tubby, Hannah Williams, & Robert York.

Principal's List

First grade - Jackson Anderson, Beyonce Argueta-Mitch, Shante Beaulieu, Joe Bell , Chais Chickaway, Elliyonna Chickaway, Chana Clemons, John Clemons, JaMiya Foster, Jawarrick Hickman, Taliyah Hickman, Gerrett Isaac, Marcus Jimmie II, Isabella Joe, Meagan John, Shilombish John, Lyleonia Johnson, Chris Lewis, Alexandria Martin, Amaya McMillan, Kayla Mingo, Jendaya Nickey, Lany Reed, Cameron Shoemake, Trayden Stephens, Meloney Thames, Trevel Vivians, Samuel Wallace, Kentrell

see HONOR ROLL, pg. 8

HONOR ROLL

continued from page seven

Willis, & Madison Wilson.

Second grade - Anastasia Ben, Mary Ben, Keithan Billy, Jaren Cotton, Dallanicka Dixon, Tristan Gibson, Davian Hickman, Daytin Jefferson, Jarred Jim, Nikilette Jim, Deontrae Joe, Maiya Joe, Brice Ketcher, Caleb Martin, Kayden McMillan, Logan Mesteth, Cylas Mingo, Deiman Perkins, Ashanti Phillips, Dicenzo Sam, Dorianna Samuel, William Samuel, Tia Saunders, Leloni Shoemake, Lonzo Thomas, Lucas Thomas, Kaliyah Tubby, William Williams, Breanna Wills, Denyunhia Willis, Junalaska Wilson, Michael Wilson, & Coyo York.

Third grade - Braydon Bell, Jaeden Bell, Treyvin Bell, Alexander Ben, Treyton Ben, Krisney Berry, Isabella Brescia, Keyunte Fuller, Josh Isaac, Jaylon Jackson, Alanna Jim, Trevor Sam, Aujaraye Sockey, Taelor Sockey, Aspen Wesley, & Kravon Willis.

Fourth grade - Kacy Bell, Lauren Ben, Trushaun Berry, Jacob Billy, Julius Billy, Malia Burnside, Kristen Clemmons, Teegan Clemmons, Narron Cotton, Tori Cotton, Daniel Jordan, Brian LaBatte, Autumn Lewis, Damien Mesteth, Micaiah Tubby, Tyus Whitecrow, Lachrista Williams, & Jerale Willis.

Fifth grade - Jennard Bollin, Dana Briscoe, Thomas Charlie, Annisah Farve, Daiton Henry, Dedrick Jordan, Allison Meely, Keyla Mingo, Alexis Sam, Merchaylee Sockey, & Karanina Willis.

Sixth grade - Dylan Alex, Brooklyn Bell, Christian Bell, Kyree Bell, Bradley Billy, Forrest Billy, Hallie Denson, Stormin Dixon, Wilson Dixon, Justice Fielder, Pegan Jackson, Titus Jim, Carlee Jimmie, Sagel Jimmie, Kayla Joe, Tiara Joe, Lattoriah Johnson, Tanesha Lewis, Josiah Monk, Leandra Sam, Cathy Thomas, Gabriel Tubby, Adonis Willis, & Shanteria Willis.

STANDING PINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko’s List

First grade - Caitlin Arreola, Echo Ben, Laranda Ben, Laliana Crosby, Deon Lewis, Traiton Martin, Nosikah Melendez, Tiger Munoz, Jocelyn Wesley, Syahinah Wheeler, & Arissa Willis.

Second grade - Shemah Crosby & Kelsey Tangle.

Third grade - Sydni Tangle.

Fourth grade - Jayasri Mitch.

Sixth grade - Dustin Mingo.

Principal’s List

First grade - Dregen Denson, Caleb Mingo, Aleyona Sockey, & Kitana Willis.

Second grade - Iris Farve, Graviel Velasco & Larisa Willis.

Third grade - Brayon Farve, Arrow Scott, Tyrese Solomon, & Haylee Thomas.

Fourth grade - Brias Bell, Skylar Comans, Daron Isaac, Isaiah Mingo, & Kindle Sam.

Fifth grade - Jaydre Bell, Dylan Ben, Candace Jefferson, Betty Mingo, & Angelia Morales.

Sixth grade - Kara Edwards, Andreana Morales, Aleyah Sockey, and Dakota Willis.

RED WATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko’s List

First grade - Diego Arvizu, Shareese Billy, Alessandra Diaz, Jurnee Jones, Sarah

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Parent Advisory Board honors 2010 Parents of the Year

The Title I Parent Advisory Board met recently at Ronnie’s Steak & Grill for their annual appreciation luncheon. Fourteen of the sixteen-member board were present.

The board honored the 2010 Parents of the Year with lunch & a Choctaw Tribal School’s throw embroidered by students at the Occupational Training Center. Honorees, selected by staff at each of the Tribal Schools, were Gabriel Bell, Bogue Chitto Elementary; Jessie & Velma Thomas, Choctaw Central High School; Kelly Denson, Choctaw Central Middle School; Randy & Pam Anderson, Conehatta Elementary; Felix & Stacy Griffin, Pearl River Elementary; Rodrick & Pandora Sockey, Red Water Elementary; Erica Farve, Standing Pine Elementary; & Julian & Crystal Roach, Tucker Elementary.

Education Services Officer Dalton Henry introduced special guests Dr. Greg Carlyle, coaches Steve Cheatham & Jennie Vance as they gave an interesting overview of what might be expected for the upcoming school year.

Danita McMillan was elected to represent Tucker on the board. She will begin serving at the August 2010 board meeting.

Other guests attending the meeting include Cyrus Ben, Susan Steve, Aiden Bell, & Cody Anderson.

The Title I Staff presented engraved clocks to each of the Title I Parent Advisory Board members as a thank you for their service to the board.

Parents of the Year honored included, front row from left, Kelly Denson, Crystal Roach, Julian Roach; middle row, Velma Thomas, Pandora Sockey, Stacey Griffin; back row, Jesse Thomas, Rodrick Sockey, Gabriel Bell, Felix Griffin, Pam Anderson, & Erica Farve.

Special guests included, front row from left, CCHS Principal Greg Carlyle, CCHS football coach Steve Cheatham, CCHS girls basketball coach Jennie Vance, Choctaw Tribal Council member Cyrus Ben; back row, Denise John, Darelene Willis & Dalton Henry.

Williams. Kevan Willis, Wynter Willis, & Bruce Wilson, Jr.

Second grade - Armando Lopez.

Third grade - Myric Anderson.

Fourth grade - Rey Barragan, Catina Townsend & Samantha Wilson.

Eighth grade - Sharissa Jefferson.

Principal’s List

First grade - Ashanti Body.

Second grade - Jaida Bell, Michaela Dixon, Taezialin Tubby, & Layla Willis.

Third grade - Japheth John, Rayden Sockey, Kaleb Solomon, Catherine Tubby, Malayiah Willis, & Toklow York.

Fourth grade - Destinee Jones & Sawyer Tubby.

Fifth grade - Aaleyiah Willis & Xena Willis.

Sixth grade - Alexis King.

Seventh grade - Selena John.

Eighth grade - Kristin Josh.

TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mi̱ko’s List

First grade - Bridgette Farve, Elleigh Willis & Kristianna McCombs.

Second grade - Makaylin Alex, Dathan Bell, Zachary Farmer, Zaryus Farmer, Kristina Taylor, Loraine Isaac, Kyonia Kanagawa, & Keyon Roach.

Third grade - Kaedre Denson, Reneesha Farve & Tayah Latimer.

Fourth grade - Mahli Bell & Candace Mingo.

Sixth grade - Ari Jefferson, Autumn McMillan & Jason McMillan.

Principal’s List

First grade - JD Bell, Jeyda Ben, Leilani Charlie, Shykim Chickaway, Ariana Ramirez, Kyleigh Steve, Alex Willis, Angelina Jim, Rayon Lewis, & Olivia Willis.

Second grade - Malakai Charlie, Seriah Cumberland, Bill Farmer Jr., Xative Nickey, Cody Roach, Manning Willis, Elroy Willis, & Damon John.

Third grade - Trajon Bacon, Ashton Chickaway, Gabriella Farmer, & Eason John.

Fourth grade - Quinnley Hickman, Etahn Higginbotham, Keanon McMillian, & Alexandra Mingo.

Fifth grade - Cy McMillan, Miguel Pedraza, Reese Tubby, Eyabay Henry, & Benlynncia Lewis.

Sixth grade - Angel Steve, Jalena Farve, Reanna Jefferson, & Nicolas Joe.

Seventh grade - Tisheena Anderson & Klifton Taylor.

Eighth grade - Angel Charlie, Terrence Comby & Shania Farmer.

Students honored at Academic Awards Banquet

The Choctaw Tribal Schools recently honored students from kindergarten through eighth grade during the 12th Annual Academic Awards Banquet at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Students were honored for making the Honor Roll (HR), Perfect Attendance (PA), Good Citizenship (GC), Academic Regional or State Winner (RW), Beta Club Presidents (BP), Student Council President (SCP), Student Council Officer (SC), STEP participant (STP), Spelling Bee winner (SB), Science Fair winner (SF), scored advanced in at least one subject area on Mississippi Curriculum Test (AP), and scored 90th percentile or higher on Terra Nova (90).

BOGUE CHITTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten - Taina Thompson (GC).

First grade - Daysia Henry (HR, GC), Quentin McClelland (HR), Breanne Mingo (HR), Camilee Nene (HR), Cheyan Robinson (HR), & Christy Thomas (HR).

Second grade - Dakota Bautista (HR), Michael Bell, Jr. (HR), Gabriel Clemmons (HR), Dewayne Cotton Jr. (HR), Julian Joe (HR), Ryan Henry (HR), & Kendrick Wesley (HR, GC).

Third grade - Breanda Ben (HR), Brianna Ben (HR), Draven Cotton (HR, GC), Sasha Cotton (HR), Jamion Johnson (HR, 90), Tayler Morris (HR), & Kenyatta Willis (HR).

Fourth grade - Gabrielle Crosby (GC), Anne Henry (HR, AP), Ethan King (HR), India Samuel (HR), & Jade Willis (HR, AP).

Fifth grade - Raina King (SW, RW), Camry Mingo (SW) & Selena Phillips (GC).

Sixth grade - Peyton Bell (GC, RW), Malaina Grasshopper (RW) & Tristen Steve (PA).

Seventh grade - Jerrette Frazier (GC) & Ashrhonda Robinson (BP).

Eighth grade - Tubbee Branning (GC) & Dallis Steve (PA)

CONEHATTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bridgette Anderson (HR, GC), Drake Anderson (HR), Taterrian Anderson (PA), Emerson Billy (HR, GC), Leona Billy (HR), Yunish Billy (HR), Dylanna Charlie (HR), Dillion Farmer (HR, 90), Lane Farmer (HR), Sydnie Ferris (HR).

Alexander Gibson (HR), Justina Hall (HR), Mathis Hall (HR), Cameron Jenkins (HR), Makayla Jenkins (HR), Tiana Jim (HR), Megan Jim (HR), Matt Jimmie (HR), Melody Jimmie (HR, AP), Shantashia John (HR), Afton Johnson (HR), Ashton Johnson (GC), Hannah Lewis (HR).

Jayden Mack (HR), Alarys Martin (HR), Harvey McMillan (HR, PA), Larena McMillan (HR), Hayden Nickey (HR), Kacey Nickey (GC), Keondre Nickey (HR), Ashlyn Shoemake (GC), Emily L. Shoemake (HR), Lorenzo Shoemake (HR), Stephanie Shoemake (HR, AP), Hunter Smith (HR, 90), Dearryl Soloman (GC).

Garrett Thomas (HR), Jaiden Thomas (HR, PA), Jayna Thomas (HR), Jessamine Thomas (HR), Jonica Thomas (HR), Keaton Taylor (RW Spelling Bee), Leighanna Thomas (PA), Jocoby Thompson (HR), Caleb Williamson (HR, AP), Samuel Wallace (1st) (HR), Anastasia Williamson (HR, GC), Kurtland Williamson (BP, AP), Mya Williamson (HR), Christian Willis (GC), Cynthia Willis (HR), Tara Willis (HR), Brannon Wilson (HR), Casson Wilson (HR), & Deshane Wishork (GC).

PEARL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten - Elona R. Clemons (PA).

Kindergarten - Layjah R. Anderson (PA), Taliyah Hickmam (GC), D’vante Isaac (GC), Trenton Reed (PA), Rosa G. Shoemake (PA), Kyden Thomas (GC), Jerious Wesley (GC), & Peja York (GC).

First grade - Jackson Anderson (HR), Shante Beaulieu (HR), Caden Bell (HR), Taleik Ben (RW), Mellayney Billy (HR), Elliyonna Chickaway (HR), Channa Clemons (HR), Cameron A. Farmer (PA), Ja’Miya Foster (HR), Charlita Gibson (RW, HR, GC), Kearson Grisham (HR), Evangeline Hall (HR), Marylee Hall (HR), Angeleighia Hickman (HR), Jawarrick Hickman (HR), Taliyah Hickman (GC), Gerrett Isaac (HR), Kyler Jefferson (HR), Brannon S. Jim (PA, HR), Emily Jim (HR), Brighton Jimmie (HR), Meagan John (HR), Lyleonia Johnson (HR), Cohen Keats (HR), Christopher Lewis II (HR), Layla Lewis (GC), Alexandria Martin (HR), Amaya McMillan (HR), Destiny Mingo (HR, GC), Isley B. Mingo (PA, HR), Kayla Mingo (HR), Lany Reed (HR), Cameron G. Shoemake (PA), Krissy Shoemake (HR), Trayden Stephens (HR), Meloney Thames (HR), Romero Thomas (HR), Ammery Thompson (HR), Ciji Vaughn (HR), Jasmine Velez (HR), Trevell Vivians (RW, HR), Jadlen M. Wallace (PA), Sierra Wallace (HR), Gage Wesley (HR), Jalissa

.........see AWARDS, pg. 10

AWARDS .... continued from page nine

Williams (HR), Taylor Willis (HR), & Madison Wilson (HR).

Second grade - Jaden Alex (HR), Dalen G. Anderson (PA, HR), Lacaniya Anderson (HR), Kashden Bell (HR), Mary Ben (HR), Alize Billy (HR), Keithan Billy (HR), Jayson Briscoe (HR), Karl Butler Jr. (HR,GC), Kessler-Rea Clemmons (HR), Dantzler Clemons (HR), Makaylie Denson (HR), Dallanicka Dixon HR), Dakota N. Farmer (PA), Tristan Gibson (HR), Memorie Henry (HR), Davian Hickman (HR), Connery Hodges (HR, GC), Ja’Shuntaye Isaac (HR), Jaiden Jackson (HR), Daytin Jefferson (HR), Jarred Jim (HR), Nikilette Jim (HR), Melanian Jimmie (HR), Maiya J. Joe (PA, HR), Cori Keats (HR), Azalius Lewis (HR), Colin Martin (HR), Krystin Martin (HR), Jasmine McMillan (HR), Ravyven McMillan (HR, GC), Logan N. Mesteth (PA), Diaz A. Moore (PA), Hunter Orduno (HR), Deiman Perkins (HR), Doreanna Samuel (HR), McKenzie Samuel (HR), William Samuel (HR), Dicenzo K. Sam (PA), Tia’Rain Saunders (HR), Leloni Shoemake (HR), Lucas Thomas (HR), Kaliyah Tubby (HR), Gaston Wesley (HR), Jalen Williams (HR), Breanna Willis (HR), Denyunhia Willis (HR), Martina Willis (HR), Megan Willis (HR), Junaluska Wilson (HR), Michael Wilson (GC), & Coyo York Jr. (HR).

Third grade - Jaenon Alex (HR), Alexander Ben (HR), Treyton Ben (HR, GC), Isabella Brescia (HR), Christopher S. Cotton (PA, HR, GC), Camille P. Dixon (PA, HR), Khalid Hickman (HR), Joshua Isaac (HR), Jaylon Jackson (HR), Dakota N. Jordan (PA), Kathryn Monk (HR), Kari Nickey, (HR), Miriam Rehman (HR), Jacqueline K. Sam (PA), Trevor Sam (HR), Xavier G. Sam (PA, HR), Christian Sockey (GC), Demarco Thomas (GC), Marco Thomas (GC), Sammy Thomas (HR), Aspen Wesley (HR), Christina Willis (HR), Kravon Willis (HR), Tatiana B. Willis (PA), & Chesney M. Wishork (PA).

Fourth grade - Kenau Anderson (HR), Kacy Bell (HR), Lauren Ben (HR), Trushaun Berry (HR), Abby Billy (HR), Shayla Chickaway (HR), Teegan Clemmons (HR, GC), Narron Cotton (HR), Tori Cotton (GC), Deshane N. Farmer (PA), Trajan Fielder (HR) Taylor Griffin (HR), Brayton Jim (HR), Lindy Jim (GC), Asa Jimmie (HR), Maleighia Joe (GC), Daniel Jordan (HR), Autumn Lewis (GC), Antonio Perez (HR), Tyus Whitecrow (HR), LaChrisha Williams (HR), Jerale Willis (HR), & Reyes Willis (HR).

Fifth grade - Jose Barojas (GC), Jennard Bollin (HR), Thomas Charlie (HR), Glendria S. Dixon (PA, GC), Nequita Farmer (GC), Tyson Griffin (HR), William D. Henry (PA), Dedrick Jordan (HR), Katarina McMillan (HR), Allison Meely (HR), Kayla Mingo (HR), Alexis Sam (HR), Emily Scobee (HR), Merchaylee J. Sockey (PA), Trinity E. Steve (PA), Hannah N. Wallace (PA), & Gatorson Wesley (HR).

Sixth grade - Dylan N. Alex (PA), Christian Bell (GC), Julian Billy (HR), Jaylendra S. Dixon (PA), Justice Fielder (HR), Roberto Fonseca (GC), Breanna Isaac (HR), Pegan Jackson (HR), Montel Jordan (HR), Nicholas McMillan (HR, GC), Josiah Monk (HR), Emilee Thames (HR), Hananiah F. Tubby (PA), Thurdrek Tubby (GC), Hannah Williams (HR), Adonis Willis (HR), Anferee A. Willis (PA), & Robert York Jr. (HR).

RED WATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten - Jamae Wright, Music award; Sheldon John, Math award; Claire Lopez, Most Improved; Anares Hernandez, Citizenship; Sierra Cook, PE, Language Arts; Nicolas Barragan, Science; Hailee Stephens, Handwriting; & Kerri Wilson, Social Studies.

Kindergarten - Carlos Flores Jr., Handwriting; Sissie Gibson, Citizenship, Lifeskill; Avontae Jones, Social Studies, PE; Zander Sockey, Science; Ketraun Willis, Most Improved; Breely Wilson, Math; & Arionna Dixon, Language Arts.

First grade - Ashanti Body, Science; Illusion Diaz, Principal’s List; Wynter Willis, Mi̱ko’s List; Mah’Lalee Willis, Most Improved; Diego Arvizu, Language Arts, Music, Attendance, Mi̱ko’s List; Bruce Wilson Jr., Math, Principal’s List; Shareese Billy, Social Studies, Principal’s List; Milton Henry Jr., PE; Jurnee Jones, Attendance, Principal’s List; Sarah Williams, Principal’s List; Kevan Willis, Citizenship, Principal’s List; Caden Wilson, Lifeskills; Pernilla Arvizu, Attendance, PE; Michaela Dixon, Life Skills, Principal’s List; Octavious Jones, Most Improved, PE, Music; Armando Lopez, Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Mi̱ko’s List; & Natory Tsosie, Citizenship.

Second grade - Pernilla Arvizu, Attendance, PE; Michaela Dixon, Life Skills, Principal’s List; Octavious Jones, Most Improved, PE, Music; Armando Lopez, Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Mi̱ko’s List; & Natory Tsosie, Citizenship.

Third grade - Sheyann Bell, Lifeskills; Japheth John, PE, Principal’s List; Catherine Tubby, Principal’s List; Myric Anderson, Math, Social Studies, Music, Mi̱ko’s List; Errol John II, AR, Principal’s List; Rayden Sockey, Science, Language Arts, AR, Principal’s List; Kaleb Solomon, Most Improved; Mayayiah Willis, third place science fair; & Justine Isaac, Citizenship.

Fourth grade - Kennedi Henry, PE; Sawyer Tubby, AR, Principal’s List; Rey Barragan, Citizenship, Attendance, Mi̱ko’s List; Alana Billy, AR; Neshoba Reed, Most Improved, Principal’s List; Destinee Jones, Principal’s List; Tiara Cotton, Lifeskills, Resource Citizenship; Samantha Wilson, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music, Mi̱ko’s List; Catina Townsend, Language Arts, Mi̱ko’s List; & Jayshun Thomas, Principal’s List.

Fifth grade - Bryton Wilson, Social Studies, Most Improved, Attendance; Rebekah Willis, Citizenship; Aaleyiah Willis, Math, Social Studies, Principal’s Award;

..........continued next page

Choctaw Tribal School System announces registration for 2010-11 school year

The Choctaw Tribal School System will offer registration for school year 2010-11 at each local school from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day from now through August. Students who plan to attend one of the Choctaw Tribal Schools in 2010-11 should register at their local schools as soon as possible.

All Choctaw Tribal Elementary Schools offer Pre-Kindergarten classes for children who are four years old by September 1, 2010.

The first day for students in the 2010-11 school year will be Monday, August 9, 2010 - a full day of school. For more information, contact local school principals at the following numbers:

Bogue Chitto Elementary - 601.389.1000;

Choctaw Central High School - 601.663.7777;

Choctaw Central Middle School - 601.663.7777;

Conehatta Elementary School - 601.775.8254;

Pearl River Elementary - 601.656.9051;

Red Water Elementary - 601.267.8500;

Standing Pine Elementary - 601.267.9225;

Tucker Elementary - 601.656.8775.

Megan Sockey, Language Arts; Chamaley Nickey, Science; Stacey Tubby, Science, Most Improved, Math; & Alyssa Jones, Lifeskills.

Sixth grade - Briana Wesley, PE, Music; Alexis King, Social Studies, Language Arts, Outstanding TAG/CAAP; Taylor Evans, Language Arts, Most Improved; Kassie Cox, second place science fair; Jody Blankenship, Math, Science; & Lucas Wilson, Citizenship.

Seventh grade - Dustin Meely, Resource Most Improved; Kevin Josh, PE; Selena John, Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Reading, Principal’s List; Daelin Cotton, Lifeskills, & Sydney Billy, Citizenship.

Eighth grade - Sharissa Jefferson, Math, Social Studies, Reading, Attendance, Principal’s List; Peyton Willis, PE, Music; Delisa Chickaway, Citizenship; & Kristin Josh, Science, Language Arts, Principal’s List.

STANDING PINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten - Christy John (GC, MU), Tayen Jim (PE), Truman Lewis (MU), & DeAngleo Lovato (PE).

Kindergarten - Destiny Lewis (GC), Logan Comby (PA), Tiak Willis (PE), Sierra Ben (PE), Tedra Denson (MU), & Thomas Tangle (MU).

First grade - Echo Ben (HR), Arissa Willis (HR), Dregen Denson (HR, PA, PE), Tiger Munoz (HR), Nosikah Melendez (HR, SC, MU), Laliana Crosby (HR, PE), Deon Lewis (HR, PA, SS), Laranda Ben (HR, GC), Traition Martin (HR, Highest & Overall GPA), Jocelyn Wesley (HR, LA, RW), Syahinah Wheeler (HR, AR), & Caitlin Arreola (HR, MA, MU).

Second grade - Shemah Crosby (HR, MA, SC, 90, MU), Kelsey Tangle (HR, LA, SS, AM, 90 Highest GPA, PE, Overall AM), Iris Farve (HR), Graviel Velasco (HR, 90, PE, MU), Larissa Willis (HR, AR), Rianna Ben (GC), & Enrique Arreola (90).

Third grade - Tyrese Solomon (HR, SC, SS), Sydni Tangle (HR, PA, MA, LA, AM, 90, Highest GPA, PE, CC), Brayon Farve (HR), Arrow Scott (HR, GC, PE, MU), Haylee Thomas (HR, MU), & Lorenzo Ben (AR).

Fourth grade - Skylar Comans (HR, LA), Jayasri Mitch (HR, MA, SC, SS, AP, Highest GPA, PE, MU), Brias Bell (HR, AR, PE, MU, Overall AR), Marisa Hall (PA), Isaiah Mingo (PA), Kindle Sam (GC), & Daron Isaac (HR, AM).

Fifth grade - Dylan Ben (HR, AM), Ichukash Solomon (HR, PA), Daisy Joe (MU), Jaydre Bell (HR, MA, LA, AP, Highest GPA), Cody Stoliby (GC, MU, Overall GC), Candace Jefferson (HR, PE), Angelia Morales (HR, SC, SS), Allen Sockey (AR, PE), & Betty Mingo (HR).

Sixth grade - Daiandre Lewis (Overall Tutorial, MU), Kara Edwards (HR, LA, SC, SS, Highest GPA), Dustin Mingo (HR, MA), Randale York (PE), Yopalakiyo Solomon (PA), Dakota Willis (AR, Most Improved Math), Maegan Willis (AM), & Aleyah Sockey (GC, MU, PE)

TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dathan Bell (HR,PA), Skye Bell (PA), Braxton Roach (PA), Keyon Roach (HR), Malakai Charlie (HR, PA), Makaylin Alex (HR), Cody Roach (HR, PA), Ashton Chickaway (HR), Zachary Farmer (HR, PA), Gabriella Farmer (HR, SF), Xative Nickey (HR), Kyonia Kanagawa (HR), Kristina Taylor (HR), Bill Farmer Jr. (HR, 90), Zaryus Farmer (HR), Manning Willis (HR), Raven Mingo (HR), Lee Willis (PA), ElRoy Willis (PA), Dwight Chickaway (HR), Seriah Cumberland (HR, PA), Kaedre Denson (HR), Tayah Latimer (HR), Reneesha Farve (HR, 90), & Loraine Isaac (HR).

Jeyda Ben (HR, PA), Bridgette Farve (HR), Christopher Hunter (PA), Shykim Chickaway (HR), Kyleigh Steve (HR), Ariana Ramierez (HR), Elleigh Willis (HR), Alex Willis (HR), Kristianna McCombs (HR), & Leilani Charlie (HR).

Ethan Higginbotham (HR), Mahli Bell (HR, AP), Alex Bell (HR, PA), Ricky Anderson (HR, SB), Cy McMillan (HR), Alexandra Mingo (SB), Eyabay Henry (HR), Reese Tubby (SC), Terrell Bell (PA), & Candace Mingo (HR, AP, SC).

Autumn McMillan (HR, PA, STP, SF), Tisheena Anderson (SC), Shania Farmer (HR, SB, SC), Arishanda Jefferson (HR, STP, SB), Reanna Jefferson (PA), Melody Charlie (SC), Nicolas Joe (HR), Jeremiah Henry (PA), & Jason McMillan (HR, STP, SF).

DISTRICT TALENT SHOW WINNERS

1st place - Briana Wesley from Red Water Elementary School

2nd place - Hanna Hickman from Bogue Chitto Elementary School

3rd place - Sharissa Jefferson & Peyton Willis from Red Water Elementary School

BCES HONORS STAFF

Bogue Chitto Elementary School honored various staff members at the end of the 2009-10 school year. Dr. Evelyn Terrell, principal, & Mrs. Delaine Hodges, teacher, are retiring after many combined years of service in education. Each has contributed greatly to the success of our school & will be missed by staff and students. **LEFT**, *pictured from left are Delaine Hodges & Dr. Evelyn Terrell. Also honored were individuals chosen by fellow staff members for their dedication & hard work at Bogue Chitto Elementary School.* **RIGHT**, *pictured from left are Assistant Teacher of the Year, Fairra Thomas; Teacher of the Year, Tina Wright; Student Support Staff of the Year, Josh Denson (custodian); and Teacher Support Staff of the Year, Cheryl Willis (secretary).*

FACE Program announces enrollment period

The Pearl River FACE Program will be enrolling new participants and returning participants for both Center-base and Home-base services during the week of August 9-13. Classes and personal home visits will start August 16, 2010.

If you are a Home-base participant with a child who will turn three years old during the 2010-2011 school year, please come by during this week so we can complete a transition plan to assist your family in transitioning into the Center-base program.

CENTER-BASE COMPONENT OFFERS:

For Parents

- Incentives for Participation
- Job Skills
- Computer Skills
- CPR/ First Aid Training
- Parenting Skills
- GED Preparation
- Family Circle Meetings

For Kids Ages
3-5 Years Old

- Free Books
- Story Time
- Pre-Kindergarten Skills
- Social Skills
- Music/Art Activities
- Field Trip
- Screenings

HOME-BASE COMPONENT OFFERS:

- Personal Visits (prenatal & children up to 5 years old)
- Screenings
- Free Books
- Incentives for participation

New participants need to please bring the following documents to complete the enrollment process: Child's Birth Certificate, Child's Certificate of Immunization Compliance Form, and Adult's Child's Degree of Indian Blood Certificate

If you have any questions about the program, please call 601-389-0861 for the Center-base component & 601-656-2452 for the Home-base component.

PRES students build, race solar cars

Students in Mrs. Carlyle & Mrs. Steve's fourth grade class at Pearl River Elementary School built & raced their own solar cars after completing a lesson on solar energy provided by Tracey Hartness, coordinator of the NASA Center at Choctaw Central High School. The students raced their cars & after each race, they adjusted the solar panels to make the cars go even faster. Pictured above from left are Darien Tubby, Hailey Williams, Kristen Clemmons, & Camery Bell.

PRES honors physical fitness award winners

Pearl River Elementary School recently announced the 2010 Physical Fitness Award winners.

Winners of the Presidential Physical Fitness Award were Brooklyn Bell, Trajan Fielder, Lyleonia Johnson, & Aujaraye Sockey.

Winners of the National Physical Fitness Award were Sarah Allen, Seth Allen, Dalen Anderson, Beyonce Arguetta-Mitch, Jose Barojas, Shante Beaulieu, Kashden Bell, Kacy Bell, Cayari Bell, Dayton Bell, Braydon Bell, Alex Bell, Treyvin Bell, Anastasia Ben, Hayden Ben, Breanna Billie, Forrest Billy, Keithan Billy, Eliyonna Chickaway, William Clark, Kessler-Rea Clemmons, Teegan Clemmons, Kristen Clemmons, Dantzler Clemons, Christopher Cotton, Narron Cotton, Bryson Davis, Camryn Dixon, Orlondo Dixon, Glendria Dixon, Jaylendra Dixon, Dallaray Dixon, Dakota Farmer, Cameron Farmer, Hama'ya Fielder, Keyunte Fuller,

Taylor Griffin, Taisiyah Griffin, Tenly Grisham, Talia Guyette, Evangeline Hall, Jordan Henry, Memorie Henry, Geric Hickman, Jawarrick Hickman, Khalid Hickman, Angeleighia Hickman, Parrion Hunter, Joshua Isaac, Ja'Shuntaye Isaac, Jaylon Jackson, Pegan Jackson, Daytin Jefferson,

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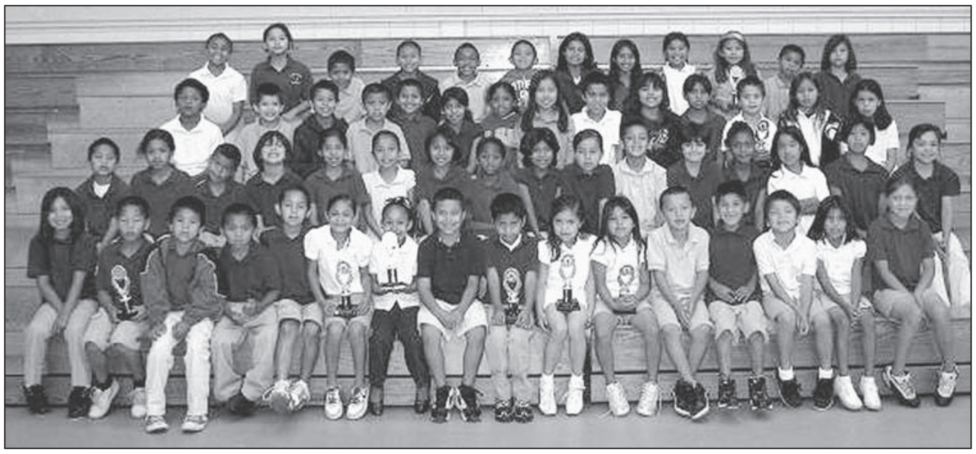
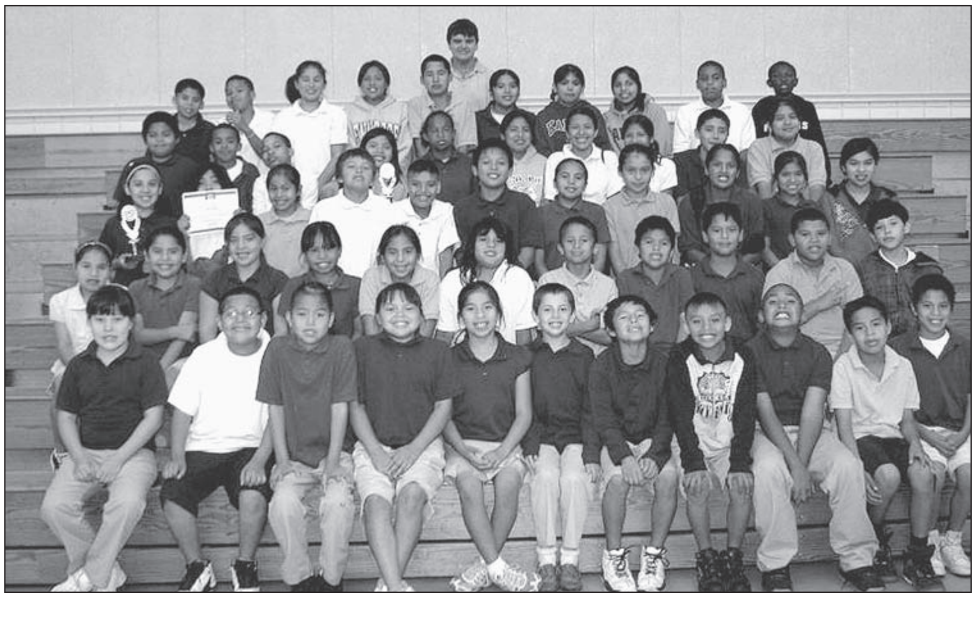




ABOVE, *Students in Kindergarten-second grade who earned a Physical Fitness Award.* **RIGHT**, *Students in grades third-sixth who earned a Physical Fitness Award.*

Nigel Jefferson, Kyler Jefferson, Brannon Jim, Brighton Jimmie, Elisha Jimmie Marcus Jimmie, Sagel Jimmie, Maiya Joe, Deontrae Joe, Jamieson John, McCoy Johnson, Lattoriah Johnson, Jawaski Johnson, Montel Jordan, Daniel Jordan, Carly Keats, Cohen Keats, Cherrell Lewis, Christopher Lewis, Azalius Lewis, Tanesha Lewis, Jalissa Lewis, Rafael Logan, Alexandria Martin, Brittany McMillan, Kayden McMillan, Jasmine McMillan, Navarrow McMillan, Rayven McMillian, Allison Meely, Keyla Mingo, Kathryn Monk, Layana Morris, Jaheim Nash, Jendaya Nickey, Deiman Perkins, Leia Phillips, Lany Reed, Dicenzo Sam, Tia'Rain Saunders, Krissy Shoemake, Leloni Shoemake, Cameron Shoemake, Delray Sockey, Christian Sockey, Kayla Stephens, Trinity Steve, Meloney Thames, Romero Thomas, Cathy Thomas, Louise Thomas, Marco Thomas, Lucas Thomas, Jordan Truss, Winona Tubby, Jaylyn Tubby, Darien Tubby, Anthony Tubby, Bertha Tubby, Sierra Wallace, Gage Wesley, Aspen Wesley, Hailey Williams, LaChrisha Williams, Nicholas Williams, Hannah Williams, Kravon Willis, Tatiana Willis, Taylor Willis, Xaiden Willis, Breanna Willis, Alex Wishork, & Mahala York.

PRES sixth graders reach AR goals

The following sixth grade students at Pearl River Elementary School reached their Accelerated Reading goals & celebrated with a pizza party. Pictured, front row from left, are Hananiah Tubby, Hannah Williams, Breanna Isaac, Nicholas McMillan, Sagel Jimmie, & Bradley Billy; back row, Kayla Joe, Shanteria Willis, Jalendra Dixon, Cathy Thomas, Navarrow McMillan, Emily Thames, Robert York, Titus Jim, Gabriel Tubby, Anferee Willis, & Roberto Fonseca.

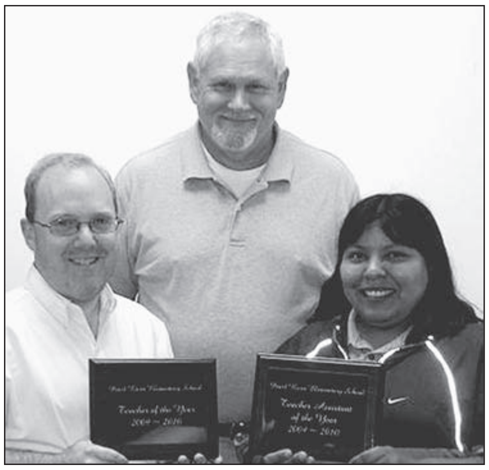
Places at State Science Fair

Congratulations to the following Red Water Elementary School students who placed at the State Science Fair at Mississippi State University. From left are Myric Anderson, second place in Medicine & Health; Kassie Cox, second place in Plant Science; & Malayiah Willis, third place in Medicine & Health.

4th nine-weeks AR party at RWES

Red Water Elementary School students enjoyed a rewards party for reaching their goal for the fourth nine weeks. Students enjoyed playing games & visiting with each other.

PRES honors faculty, staff



The faculty & staff of Pearl River Elementary School were honored with a luncheon on May 28. Principal David McCulloch thanked the faculty & staff for their dedication & hard work. The faculty & staff selected the following for special recognition. Above, Principal McCulloch, in the background, honored Pat Fiedler, left, as Teacher of the Year & Carletta Denson as Teacher Assistant of the Year. Not pictured is Casaja Phillips, Support Staff of the Year.

Visits Pre-K classroom at RWES

Red Water Head Start children recently visited the Pre-K classroom at Red Water Elementary to help prepare them for next year.

SPES principal gets a pie at pep rally

Standing Pine Elementary School students & staff kicked off MCT2 week with a pep rally & a pie for the principal. PTO sponsored "Pie the Principal" where the class with the most money raised could each throw a pie at the principal. Sixth grade students were declared the winners. Principal Jason Roberson was a great sport & the entire school enjoyed the event.

Thanks for a successful Spring Festival

Standing Pine Elementary School would like to thank the faculty, staff, volunteers & community members for a successful Spring Festival. For the decorating, cooking, serving, cleaning, & most of all, your support. A great time was had by all.

SPES
2010
SPRING FESTIVAL

SPRING FESTIVAL

TUCKER STAFF HONORED

Tucker Elementary School Principal Brooke Sibley honored her faculty & staff with an appreciation luncheon on the last day of school. She served “the best for the best” with a smoked rib dinner. All Tucker staff were honored & thanked for a successful school year due to their dedication to their professions & their love for the children at Tucker School. Mrs. Sibley reminded the staff that a Summer Enrichment Program would begin May 26 & run through July 2. All staff at Tucker voted special awards for the year & the following were selected. Pictured above, from left, is Principal Brooke Sibley presenting awards to Assistant Teacher of the Year Ari Wallace, Teacher of the Year Theresa Savell, Teacher Support Staff of the Year Vickie Singletary, & Student Support Staff of the Year Walter Jim.

Tucker School holds annual spring awards program

Tucker Elementary School awarded 76 students on May 26 for their achievements for the 2009-10 school year. Principal Brooke Sibley welcomed a large crowd of parents & guests. Shania Farmer opened with a prayer & the student council led the pledge to the flag.

Mrs. Sibley spoke to the students & acknowledged their hard work & encouraged them to continue their studies & set educational goals for their lives.

Lisa Howell, representing the Philadelphia Community Development Partnership, awarded certificates to students who have been on the Mi̱ko’s Honor Roll all three nine weeks. They included Makaylin Alex, Dathan Bell, Zachary Farmer, Bridgette Farve, Loraine Isaac, Raven Mingo, & Kristina Taylor.

Mr. Willis White, representing the American Legion, presented the award for Most Outstanding 8th Grader to Angel Charlie.

Pre-Kindergarten students received an award of completion. They were Kimora Alex, Nautica Bacon, Sydney Bell, Kezmond Carter, Shaylynn Hunter, Lexie Love, Lilah Reynolds, Keegan Thompson, Ceanna Willis, & Coby Trae Willis.

The Outstanding Challenger TAG student was named Nicolas Joe.

Language Awards were presented to J.D. Bell, Makaylin Alex, Kyonia Kanagawa, Tayah Latimer, Ethan Higginbotham, Eyabay Henry, Reanna Jefferson, Tisheena Anderson, & Angel Charlie.

The Kindergarten Handwriting Award was presented to Cadence Nickey, & the Kindergarten Art Award was presented to Ennalyse McCombs.

Math Awards were presented to Derek Reynolds, Bridgette Farve, Dathan Bell, Zaryus Farmer, Reenesha Farve, Candace Mingo, Alex Bell, Jason McMillan, Tisheena Anderson, & Terrence Comby.

The Presidential Fitness Award was presented to Victoria Mahli Bell.

National Fitness Awards were presented to Tisheena Anderson, Alex Bell, Terrell Bell, Dathan Bell, Mahli Bell, Jeyda Ben, Angel Charlie, Leilani Charlie, Melody Charlie, Dwight Chickaway, Zachary Farmer, Gabriella Farmer, Bridgette Farve, Jalena Farve, Eyabay Henry, Jeremiah Henry, Ethan Higginbotham, Nicolas Joe, Cobi John, Braxton Kanagawa, KiKi Lewis, Kristianna McCombs, Tanaira McCombs, Keaton McCombs, Jason McMillan, Cody Roach, Keyon Roach, Jennaya Steve, Kyleigh Steve, Jacob Taylor, Kristina Taylor, Reese Tubby, Demanuel Willis, Elleigh Willis, & Lee Willis.

Coaches Tom Johnson, LaTisha Stephens & Kathy McMillan recognized the Basketball All-Tournament winners, Bernadette Dixon & Jeremiah Henry.

The Most Outstanding Student in Music was Ricky Anderson.

The Most Outstanding Computer Student Award, grades K-8, was presented to Terrence Comby.

Reading Awards were presented to Makayla Hickman, Kristianna McCombs, Zachary Farmer, Kristina Taylor, Raven Mingo, Mahli Belll, Scottie Amos, Arishanda Jefferson, Justina Amos, & Bernadette Dixon.

The Most Improved Student Award went to Justina Amos.

Science Awards were presented to Cody Roach, Bill Farmer Jr., Tayah Latimer, Cobi John, Miguel Pedraza, Autumn McMillan, Tisheena Anderson, & Renedra Thompson.

The Social Studies Awards were presented to Xative

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Pictured above are award recipients.

Tribal Scholarship honors recent college graduates

The Tribal Scholarship Program would like to recognize and congratulate all of our 2009-2010 college graduates on a job well done on this great achievement. We hope that they will all see this as another step in their lives to becoming successful individuals in their many future endeavors and careers. Again, we would like to congratulate you and thank you for all the hard work and determination you showed as you gained this monumental accomplishment. Yakoki.

Fall 2009 Graduates

Ashley Davidson, Mississippi State University, BS, Pre-Law;

Audrey Gibson, Belmont University, BA, Art Education;

Mallory Shumake, Mississippi State University, BA, Psychology;

Joshua Weaver, Florida Institute of Technology, MS, Biotechnology;

Byron Williams, Jr., Auburn University, BS, Exercise Science.

Spring 2010 Graduates

Max Anderson, East Central Community College, AA, Liberal Arts;

Lanisha Bell, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management;

Melanie Carson, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management;

Ashley Denson, Meridian Community College, AA, Business;

Brianna Denson, Meridian Community College, AA, University Transfer;

James Denson, University of Mississippi Medical Center, PhD, Physical Therapy;

Shiela Frazier, Meridian Community College, AAS, Business Office Technology;

Tamara Hardin, Northeastern State University, BS, Elementary Education;

Angela Hundley, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management;

Danielle Isaac, Meridian Community College, AA, Liberal Arts;

Geraline Jeanguneat, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management;

Paula John, Mississippi State University, BS, Social Work/Criminal Justice;

Tamara John, Mississippi State University, BS, Physical Education;

Chelsea King, Belhaven University, BA, English/ITS;

Dava Meely, East Central Community College, AAS, Child Development Technology;

Darlene Patrick, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management;

Mark Patrick, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management;

Tina Routh, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management;

Anthony Taylor, Mississippi College, JD, Law;

Roberta Taylor, Millsaps College, MACC, Accounting;

Deidre Tubby, East Central Community College, AA, Liberal Arts/Meteorology;

Doris Thompson, Mississippi State University, BSW, Social Work;

Dinah Williams, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management;

Linda Williams, Belhaven University, MSM, Business Management.

If there are any questions, please contact us at 601.650.7409 or email us at mcarson@choctaw.org, samuel.york@choctaw.org, or terry.ben@choctaw.org. Yakoki.

Nickey, Loraine Isaac, Gabriella Farmer, Tiger Briscoe, Cy McMillan, Nicolas Joe, Klifton Taylor, & Shania Farmer.

Recognized for their Perfect Attendance were Sky Bell, Braxton Roach, Chris Hunter, Jeyda Ben, Dathan Bell, Malakai Charlie, Zachary Farmer, Cody Roach, Seriah Cumberland, El Roy Willis, Lee Willis, Alex Bell, Terrell Bell, Reanna Jefferson, Autumn McMillan, & Jeremiah Henry.

Also recognized were Spelling Bee winners Shania Farmer, Alexandra Mingo, Ricky Anderson, & Arishanda Jefferson.

Science Fair winners Autumn McMillan, Jason McMillan, & Gabriella Farmer were also recognized.

The conclusion of the program was traditional Choctaw dancing led by the 7th & 8th graders with chanters Bruce Jim, Ricky Anderson, & Dianne Comby, music teacher.

ABOVE, *Members of the Pre-Kindergarten class with their certificate of completion.*

RIGHT, *Willis White, left, representing the American Legion, presented Angel Charlie the award for Most Outstanding Eighth Grader.*

College graduates honored

The staff of the Choctaw Vocational Education Program and the Choctaw Employment Assistance Program would like to congratulate the 2009-2010 college graduates. Aiokpa̱chi.

Ramon Agurrie, Hotel Restaurant Management, AAS Degree, East Central Community College.

Kristina Bell, Office Systems Technology, AAS Degree, East Central Community College.

Sandy Cotton, Office Systems, 1 year certificate, Meridian Community College.

Paula Covarrubias, Computer Programming, AAS Degree, East Central Community College.

Cassondra Farve, Carpentry, 1 year certificate, East Central Community College.

Dennis Jim Jr., Carpentry, 1 year certificate, Meridian Community College.

Javion King, Carpentry, 1 year certificate, East Central Community College.

Dallas Steve Jr., Carpentry, AAS Degree, East Central Community College.

Whitney Wesley, Associate Degree of Nursing, Meridian Community College.

Deona Williams, Office Systems, 1 year certificate, Meridian Community College.

Cliff Willis, Truck Driving, 1 year certificate, East Central Community College.

Clifton Willis Jr., Carpentry, 1 year certificate, East Central Community College.

Crawford Willis, Automotive Technology, AAS Degree, East Central Community College.

Michael Willis, Automotive Technology, AAS, East Central Community College.

Stuart Willis, Computer Programming, AAS, East Central Community College.

Tullos returns as CCHS Lady Warriors head coach

Willis Tullos is back at the helm of Choctaw Central High School's Lady Warriors basketball program. The announcement was made during a press conference at the CCHS library on Friday, June 11, 2010.

"I'm excited about having the opportunity to be back coaching at Choctaw Central. It was extremely important to me to be able to finish my career here. It has been Choctaw Central where I have been for most of my life," said Tullos.

Tullos offered his appreciation to Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson for giving him the opportunity to lead the Lady Warriors program once again.

"He is the reason why I am standing here in front of all these people today. We are going to work hard, we have always worked hard and we will continue to work hard and do the best we can to represent the Choctaw people and make them proud and if God blesses us, bring another state title back to the reservation. That's our goal," said Tullos.

Last February, the Lady Warriors (24-8) were defeated by Ripley 71-51 in the Class 3A state semifinal under second year coach Jennie Vance.

"We have almost the whole team coming back from last year and they are a good basketball team. They didn't fare well in the state tournament, but a lot of people didn't. When that happens that always gives you the incentive to work harder, get back there and show people that you want and can win," said Tullos.

Earlier in the day, Tullos got to see his team practice for the first time and was impressed with their effort and execution.

"I don't see anything but good things for basketball here at Choctaw Central and the girls basketball program," said Tullos.

Tullos first coaching tenure at Choctaw Central was from 1972-83 as he coached football, track and then girls basketball. After a stint in Cherokee, North Carolina, Tullos returned to CCHS and led a successful revival of the Lady Warriors basketball program. From 1994-2001, the Lady Warriors amassed a 224-24 record and won the Class 2A titles in 1996, 1997 and 1999. Tullos was named Girls Coach of the Year in 1996 by the Mississippi Association of Coaches and The Clarion-Ledger.

Stepping down in 2001, he was then named director of the school's Upward Bound Program. In April 2004, Tullos returned to coaching at Newton County. He held that position for three seasons before coming back to Choctaw Central to lead the middle school girls basketball program.

New Lady Warriors head coach Willis Tullos

"I feel pretty good about the opportunity. The girls will work hard. I know they want to win and as far as the future, probably with the eighth grade groups, we probably have some of the best kids in school now. That's a real strong group and when they get in high school they will be very good," added Tullos.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

May Events

On May 22, five members who participated in the Nike Challenge Program ran in the Tye Dye 5K Run hosted by Health Works in Tupelo.

Running in the Tye Dye 5K Run were, from left, Melody Jimmie, Sharandon Isom, Ashlyn Shoemake, Megan Jim, & Deshane Wishork.

On May 22, seven members who participated in the Jr. Staff program were taken to Skate Odyssey for their end of the school year trip.

June & July Scheduled Events

On June 14, 23 & 30, Team Building teens were taken to the Choctaw Challenge Course.

On June 4, Kids In Control Fire Safety presentation was held by Allan Meely, Liaison for the Choctaw Fire Department. During the presentation, TORCH Club members washed Mr. Meely's patrol vehicle.

On June 11, Smart Moves preteens & teens toured the Choctaw Youth Detention Center & then enjoyed the afternoon fishing at Lake Pushmataha.

On June 16, Team Building members ages 11-18 participated in Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls Club's one day volleyball tournament.

On June 18, Smart Moves program had a Tobacco

see CLUB NEWS, pg. 18

May 14 2010
PAY TO THE ORDER OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUB $5,000.00
FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS
For "4 THE KIDS"
Beasley Denson
Beasley Denson, Tribal Miko

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians presented a $5,000 check to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Neshoba, Attala, Winston, & Leake Counties in Mississippi. Pictured from left are Ison Harris of The Oprah Winfrey Boys & Girls Club of Kosciusko/Attala County; Anna Denson of the MBCI Boys & Girls Clubs; Barry McMillan, Chief of Staff to Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson; & head football coach Earnest Collins of Alcorn State University.

Tribe hosts Boys & Girls Club event

Area youth from the Quad-County Boys & Girls Clubs' participated in the first 4 the Kids event held in Choctaw, Miss., on May 13-14, 2010.

This two-day fun and fundraising experience featured a football clinic at Choctaw Central High School's Warrior Stadium, a dinner & silent auction in the grand ballroom of the Silver Star Convention Center, and a golf tournament at the

..........continued next page

Dancing Rabbit Golf Club.

Proceeds from the events help provide services to over 3,000 children involved in the Boys and Girls Clubs of the quad-county area.

“We’re hoping to continue this as our fundraising event for all the Boys & Girls Club within the four counties,” said Anna Denson of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

There are 1,400 Tribal children and youth participating in the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The event represented a collaboration among five Boys & Girls Clubs in four counties - the Boys & Girls Club of Carthage/Leake County, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Boys & Girls Club of Neshoba County, the Boys & Girls Club of Winston County, and the Oprah Winfrey Boys and Girls Club of Kosciusko/Attala County.

On May 13, over 140 Club members and other area youth ages 6-13 attended the 4 the Kids football clinic as they participated in interactive drills conducted by coaches and football players from East Central Community College. The clinic was sponsored by Wal-Mart stores within the quad-county region.

“We decided to do a fund raiser and give the children an opportunity to participate in football skills,” said Larry Dickens, Winston County Boys & Girls Club Executive Director.

“It’s just a blessing for us to be here and the opportunity for our kids to mingle together. One thing we encourage with the kids today is to meet kids from other clubs. We made sure the different stations consists of kids from all of the five different clubs.”

That evening, a dinner and silent auction was held and hosted by Sen. Giles Ward of Louisville and Mississippi Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Melanie Newell. Talent was provided by members of the Quad-County Boys & Girls Clubs. Featured speakers were University of Southern Mississippi head football coach Larry Fedora and Alcorn State head football coach Earnest Collins. The Tribe also donated items for the silent auction.

On May 14, 17 golf teams participated in the golf tournament sponsored by the Tribe. Prior to the event, a special presentation was made as the Tribe donated $5,000 to 4 the Kids to benefit the children and youth of the five Boys and Girls Clubs in the quad counties.

Boys & Girls Clubs are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. All contributions will be formally acknowledged.

Choctaw Central High School graduate & current member of the East Central Community College football team Alaric Keams assists Boys & Girls Club members during football drills at the 4 The Kids football clinic May 14. (Photo courtesy of Choctaw Video)

THE FAMILIES OF THE FOLLOWING ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 1ST FAMILY REUNION

Herman Frazier, Almon Wallace, Nephus Willis
Raymond Willis Sr., Clarence Willis, Millie Tubby
Randy Frazier, Frazier Frazier, Bobby Frazier Dixon,
& Luke Frazier

Reunion will be held Saturday, July 10, 2010, at Colleen Mingo’s house in Bogue Chitto from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

For further information please contact:
Shirley Shoemake at 601-650-8345
Hilbert Shoemake at 601-504-9887
Sally Jim at 601-6507398

Please bring your favorite covered dish & lawn chairs. Donations of sodas are needed. Thank you & we look forward to seeing you there!

ADULT MENTORS NEEDED!

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Mississippi

MENTORING PROGRAM SUMMARY

The vision of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi (BBBSMS) is to provide successful mentoring relationships for all children who need & want them, contributing to better schools, brighter futures, & stronger communities for all.

BBBSMS serves children & youth ages 5-15 who could benefit from a positive adult role model in their lives. Volunteers commit to mentoring for one year in one of our programs.

How It Works:

Mentoring allows volunteers to visit a child at their school or at their local Boys & Girls Clubs or other after school programs. If you are age 18 or older you may pick them up at home. Volunteers are required to commit to visiting 1 hour per week. Activities may include helping the child with his or her schoolwork, playing basketball, reading, talking, playing on the playground, & eating lunch together at the school. The volunteer’s main role is to be a friend & a role model.

How do you begin?

Call or e-mail Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi Program Specialist Jill Byars & an application will be sent to you. Her number is 601.575.8018, e-mail jbyars@bbbsms.org. For more information, go to the website www.bbbsms.org.

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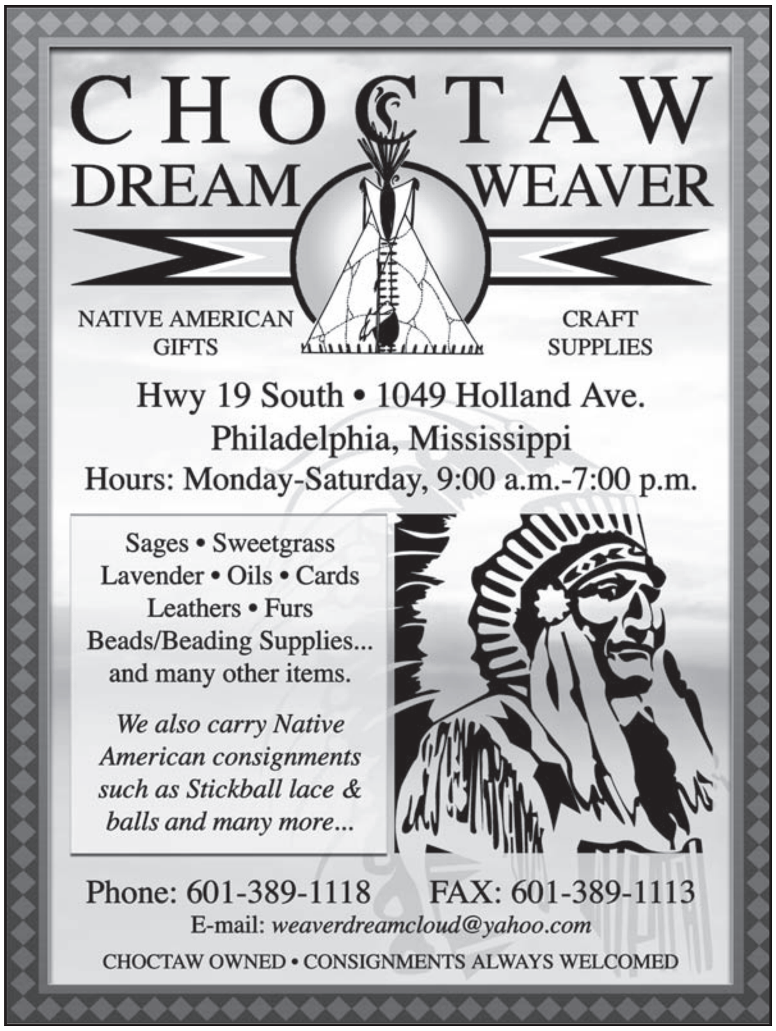

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CLUB NEWS .... continued from page sixteen

Prevention presentation by Marquita Wilson of Choctaw Behavioral Health. While Mrs. Wilson was presenting, the Keystone Club members washed her program vehicle.

On June 24, the Art program had Choctaw Cultural Program demonstrate & assist members in making stickball aprons.

On June 25, members of the Triple Play program & their dads watched a Mississippi Braves baseball game in Jackson as a Father's Day event.

On June 27, Smart Moves program had Newton County Police officers do a presentation on "Alcohol & Drugs" while Keystone members washed the patrol car.

On July 2, Kids In Control program will have Douglas Williams with MBCI Homeland Security/Emergency Management come do a presentation on Severe Weather Safety. While he is doing the presentation, members of the Jr. Staff will be washing his patrol vehicle.

On July 6, Keystone & Torch will be participating in the Choctaw Challenge Course in Choctaw.

On July 9, there will be an end of summer pool party for all members.

On July 12, there will be a fun day.

July 13 will be the last day of the summer session.

CCFS, CCAC host Child Abuse Awareness Parade, run/walk in April

submitted by Julia Williams,
CFS Caseworker

Choctaw Children First was our theme in recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention/Awareness Month. The event was hosted by the Choctaw Children & Family Service & the Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center.

I am very honored to thank several of the Choctaw programs, Choctaw Tribal Schools & Choctaw businesses including: the Choctaw Elderly Program & elderly dancers; Sharon Thompson & Darlene Willis & the SDPI staff; Family & Community Services staff; Bogue Chitto Elementary School BETA Club; Tanya Tullos, Division of Early Head Start & Head Start staff; Douglas Williams, MBCI Homeland Security/Emergency Management; Williamson Spring Water; Cyrus Ben, Choctaw Office Supply Company; Nolan Mitch, Royal Blue Dist.; Elijah Jimmie, Mary Harrison & Marcio Azevedo, Pearl River Resort; Coca Cola Co., Clark Beverage Group; Glen Billie & Anna Denson, Boys & Girls Club; Choctaw Fire Department; & Community Health personnel Sharon Hockett & Davita McClelland.

Guest speakers included the Honorable Judge Kevin Briscoe, CFS Attorney Timothy Taylor, Choctaw Police Department Capt. Harold Comby, & Dalton Henry of the Division of Schools. You came together to participate & support child abuse awareness, Thank you very much for being there for children in our communities.

Positive effectiveness is what we are working on in our Choctaw communities. We are reading to Head Start children & making presentations at the Choctaw Tribal Schools to better inform teachers of mandate reporting of child abuse.

CFS Licensed Attorney and Tribal member Timothy Taylor, Choctaw Police Criminal Investigator Gerri Jeanguneat, Choctaw Children & Family Services and staff, Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center, Rae Nell Vaughn, Melinda Ben & staff all did an excellent job on presentations in the schools & community. Making a positive difference in the community is most important & will have a better response to those efforts that we put forward. I would like to share some national statistics.

- A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds;
- Almost five children die everyday from child abuse, 3 out-of-4 are under the age of 4;
- 90 percent of child sexual abuse victims know the perpetrator in some was; 68 percent are abused by family members;
- Child abuse occurs in every socioeconomic level across ethnic, cultural, religions & at all educational levels;
- Over 60 percent of people

..........continued next page

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Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center Melinda Ben, far right, reads to Head Start children as CFS Caseworker Julia Williams, in the background, looks on.

in drug rehabilitation centers report being abused or neglected as a child. The cycle of abuse exists.

Everyday we have to consider it as Child Abuse Awareness. Everyday we go to work & at night when we are sleeping, there are children in our neighborhood, community, state, & country are being abused by family, relatives or strangers. We always want to be aware of what is surrounding us. **Do not hesitate** to report child abuse at 601-650-1741 or the hotline 1-800-222-8000.

We must protect our children so they may grow to be strong, healthy & carry positive cultural values. One day soon they will be doing the work that we are doing now.

The Healing Garden

We hear stories about the first Thanksgiving in the new world & how American Indians brought food to the starving new-comers. The first immigrants came to this country to escape persecution or start a new life. If not for the gift of food, seeds & planting knowledge given to them by the first Americans, none would have survived. By planting & harvesting seeds that grew from these heirloom plants & saving seeds from year to year, the cycle would be successful.

Recently many of you have begun gardening as a result of higher grocery prices & the convenience of fresh vegetables to have at home. There is another way that gardening will assist tribal members.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians received a four-year grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquent Prevention for a Re-Entry Demonstration Project for tribal youth. The grant will fund this re-entry program with a holistic approach, focusing on the Choctaw culture & traditions to help tribal youth reduce recidivism, reclaim traditional family values & reconnect cultural identity. Mississippi State University is the designated green partner to assist & provide support for this initiative.

A comprehensive curriculum has been developed to introduce tribal youth to different aspects of maintaining a more wholesome & healthier lifestyle that will be elder-driven for the duration of one year (six months residential & six months of probation).

ABOVE, *The Osapausi Amasalichi (little garden of healing) is constructed near Transitional Living Units located at the Choctaw Justice Complex.* **RIGHT**, *Several vegetables will be grown in the Osapausi Amasalichi.*

There is a historical significance in teaching tribal youth traditional ways by their learning from Choctaw elders. Our alliance with the Choctaw elders will serve as a hub to define & express the message of cultural respect & trust, therefore establishing cultural identity.

A Transitional Living Unit (TLU), located at the Choctaw Justice Complex, will be the housing quarters where the youth will reside for the duration of their stay for up to six months.

Just outside of the TLU, is the *Osapausi Amasalichi* (little garden of healing). As an integral piece of the grant, the role of this garden was to become a metaphoric reflection of the youth's personal life. The garden is to serve as a "second chance" - an opportunity for our youth to gain cultural perspectives, to develop a sense of making better decisions & to have a positive outlook for their life-journey.

The overall goal is to communicate the importance of responsibility & accountability for future actions. Youth participants of Osapausi Amasalichi Re-entry program will be responsible for caring for the garden throughout the process from preparing the ground, planting the seed, picking the final produce, and traditionally preparing it to give back to the community.

With assistance from the MBCI Department of Natural Resources, we will incorporate the ancient "Three Sisters" planting concept. According to Iroquois legend, corn, beans and squash are three inseparable sisters who only grow and thrive together. This tradition of inter-planting corn, beans and squash in the same mounds - widespread among Native American farming societies -

.........see GARDEN, pg. 20

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MRBI funds available in Mississippi Delta

Jackson, MS - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced recently the selection of three projects in the Mississippi Delta that will help landowners and producers within the Mississippi Delta River Basin voluntarily implement conservation and management practices that prevent, control, and trap nutrient runoff from agricultural land.

"USDA is working aggressively to improve the health of the Mississippi River Basin," said Vilsack. "The funding announced today (June16) will help producers implement a system of conservation practices that will control soil erosion, improve soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat."

Nationally, more than $22 million in Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) funds will be administered through the Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. Nearly $8 million will be provided in Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) funds. Partner organizations will contribute additional financial resources.

Under the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Mississippi will provide total of $7.8 million of financial assistance during federal fiscal year 2010 for projects in the following watersheds:

CCPI-Proposal List

- Big Sunflower River Watershed
- Deer Creek-Steele Bayou Watershed
- Upper Yazoo Watershed

WREP-Proposal List

Wetland Enhancement & Restoration in the Big Sunflower Watershed in the Mississippi Delta.

These multi-year watershed projects were selected through a competitive process. A listing of the projects by state, and additional information about the MRBI, are available at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/mrbi/mrbi_overview.html.

The MRBI will help NRCS

..........continued next page

GARDEN .... continued from page nineteen

is a sophisticated, sustainable system that provides long-term soil fertility & a healthy diet to generations.

According to legends, corn must grow in community with other crops rather than on its own - it needs the beneficial company & aide of its companions. This legendary metaphor uncovers the significance of unity for optimum nutritional & communal value.

Seed donations from the USDA-NRCS Choctaw Field Office are also contributing to the project.

With assistance from the USDA-NRCS Mississippi Choctaw Field Office, we will also include seeds from other Tribal Nations in Indian Country - providing an opportunity for participants to learn about others. Those vital to our southeastern region such as watermelons, speckled peas, collard greens, sweet corn, tomatoes, & cayenne & jalapeño peppers will also be planted.

Our purposes are to not only highlight crops that are regional & favorable, but to expose our youth to other areas & cultures; to enhance their interest & exploration of agriculture & education through the connection of other indigenous tribes & cultures; & to uphold the systemic value of a more wholesome community as Native people.

By re-establishing sustainable living & the trade of seeds, we can restore & retain family, community, tribal & inter-tribal relations while teaching & sharing valuable, eternal ways of living in our communities.

and its partners expand their capacity to improve water quality throughout the basin. CCPI will use a conservation systems approach to manage nitrogen and phosphorous, which will minimize runoff and reduce downstream nutrient loading. WREP will encourage strategic placement of wetland restoration projects.

NRCS is celebrating 75 years of helping people help the land in 2010. Since 1935, the NRCS conservation delivery system has advanced a unique partnership with state and local governments and private landowners delivering conservation based on specific, local conservation needs while accommodating state and national interests.

The USDA-NRCS is encouraging landowners, farmers, and producers to visit their local conservation district office and apply for assistance through the MRBI.

Deadline for applying for assistance during the first application cut-off period is June 30, 2010.

Report illegal dump site locations & environmental concerns to:
The Office of Environmental Protection
ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE
601-663-7510
Please leave a detailed message including a description of items found, the location of the dump site and any additional comments as needed.

Free teacher workshops for teaching financial education in the classroom

Teachers & community financial professionals are invited to register for a free workshop being hosted by Mississippi State University Extension Service Family Resource Management Agents at selected video-conference sites throughout the state.

The target audience for this training includes middle & high school teachers, as well as credit union & banking professionals who provide financial education in the classroom.

Participants of the "Dollars & Sense: Financial Education for the Classroom" workshop will learn to use free education resources available through Federal Reserve Banks, the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) High School Financial Planning Program to brighten the financial futures of youth in middle & high schools.

Teachers will receive .5 CEU credits for attending one of the sessions.

In our area, the session scheduled for June 21 will be held at the Lauderdale Extension Office in Meridian, the July 19 & the October 13 session will be held at the Newton County Extension Office in Decatur.

Each session will be from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Although the program is free, pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Susan Cosgrove at the Newton County Extension Office at 601-635-7011 or visit: This http://msucares.com/frm and look for the registration form link for "Dollars & Sense" in the blue box.

Overdraft rules changing for debit cards

by Susan Cosgrove, Family Resource Management Area Extension Agent

submitted by Jim McAdory, Area Extension Agent for MBCI

Watch your mail for a letter from your financial institution soon. Banks and credit unions nationwide soon will begin sending out letters explaining the overdraft services they offer and related fees.

The Federal Reserve has issued clarifications to the new law regarding overdraft fees that go into effect July 1. The law requires banks to have customers opt-in to overdraft programs linked to debit cards. The law does not include overdrafts by checks or automatic bill payments.

Until now, most banks automatically enrolled their customers without the customer's approval. If the customer finds himself overdrawn, the bank covers the transaction, and charges the customer an overdraft fee.

Using a debit card is such an easy way to pay. But many of us may become careless and fail to record each transaction. That can lead to spending money when the funds are actually not in the bank, then the bank slaps on an overdraft fee for each transaction for insufficient funds. These fees can add up to several hundred dollars a month if the customer is not

...see OVERDRAFT, pg. 22

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OVERDRAFT .... continued from page twenty-one

careful.

Under the new rules which go into effect July 1, consumers who are opting out are saying they would prefer that if their account balance is insufficient, their card be declined. These consumers cannot be charged overdraft fees on ATM withdrawals and debit card transactions.

If a consumer does not give any response to the letter, it will be considered that they have opted out of overdraft protection services.

If a consumer opts in, the bank will cover the transaction if the account balance is insufficient and charge the customer an associated fee.

The new overdraft rule gives you flexibility. If you opt in, you can cancel at any time. If you do not opt in, you can do so later.

A word of WARNING... Beware of scams. Remember that financial institutions will not contact you via email to ask for your personal information, such as your bank account number. I have already received a bogus email that looks like it is from a financial institution with the form to complete for opting in for overdraft services. Remember that you should **NEVER** reply to an email with your personal and/or financial information.

Do not forget to check your mailbox for this information from your financial institution. If you have any questions, contact your county office of Mississippi State University Extension Service. For more information on debit cards, ask for publication number 2529, "Use Debit Cards Wisely."

Pvt. Wishork graduates from Fort Sill

Pvt. George Wishork Jr.

Army Pvt. George P. Wishork Jr. graduated from the field artillery automated tactical data systems specialist advanced individual training course at Fort Sill in Lawton, Okla.

The course trains soldiers as specialists to operate advanced field artillery tactical data systems for cannon & multiple launch rocket systems. Specialists play a role in delivery of field artillery's fire support systems for infantry & tank units in combat. Skills training included methods of computing target locations, ammunition handling & operating & performing maintenance on equipment, vehicles, generators & tactical & data systems.

Wishork, son of George P. Wishork Sr. of Forest & Annette Arvizu of Carthage, is a 2008 graduate of Choctaw Central High School. His family (Mom, Pernilla, Diego, Larry, & the rest of the family) wish him a Happy Birthday on July 20.

"Settle the Word in Your Life"

by Pastor Thomas Ben

Psalms 119:89, *Forever, O LORD, your word is settled in heaven.*

When something has been settled it will not change, it is firmly fixed or established. It will remain the same always. God's word has been settled in Heaven, it's not up for debate or arguments. This is why it is peaceful, full of life and Joy. No one gets hurt, everyone benefits.

Now, if we decided to settle the word of God in our lives and in our homes, we would be able to receive the same benefits that heaven enjoys... we'll be full of peace, full of life and full of joy! Everyone will benefit!

Here in the world, anytime something is up for debate it usually ends up hurting someone and not everyone benefits. God's Word is not up for debate or arguments.

He will not argue with you about His Word because it is true and it outweighs opinions and reasoning's of man. I encourage you to give full attention on settling the Word of God in your life and home.

Once you make a decision to settle it in your life you will activate the benefits that it carries. The Word says, "forgive", so you forgive... "love others", so you love others... "be at peace with everyone", so you be at peace with everyone... "think the best of everyone", so you think the best of everyone! Whatever the Word of God says, that's what you do. This has nothing to do with how you feel, or what church you go to, but it has everything to do with you being a child of God.

Make a decision to settle the Word in your life. Make it final and enjoy everything that God has for you!

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www.spiritoflifechoctaw.org

In Memory

SAMUEL J. WESLEY

Funeral services for Samuel Jay Wesley, 27, were held Wednesday, June 2, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium. Bro. John Frazier officiated.

Burial was in the Dancing Rabbit Cemetery in Mushulaville. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Wesley passed away May 30 in Meridian.

He was employed with Pearl River Resort as a hard count operation team for five years. He loved hunting, fishing, playing softball, & playing stickball for the Nanih Waiya team.

He was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Wechie Joe Robinson & Effie Cotton Wesley; grandfathers, Carl Robinson & Bennie Wesley; two aunts & two uncles.

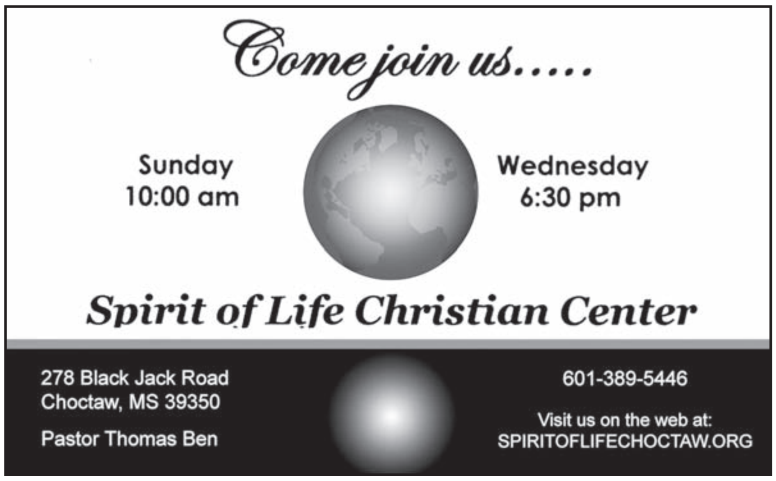
Survivors include his mother, Mary Wesley; father & stepmother, Clay Wesley Sr. & Ann Wesley; common law wife, Belinda Denise Morris; daughter, Kendalyn Wesley; sons, Kendrick Wesley & Jalon Wesley; two brothers, Zechariah Wesley & Clay Wesley Jr.; two great aunts, four aunts, two uncles, & a host of relatives & friends.

ANTHONY ZYRUS BELL

Funeral services for Anthony Zyrus Bell, 24, were held Thursday, May 27, 2010, from the Pearl River Facility Building. The Rev. Doby Henry & Rev. Rocky Gilliam officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel

..........continued next page



Come join us.....

Sunday
10:00 am

Wednesday
6:30 pm

Spirit of Life Christian Center

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Pastor Thomas Ben

601-389-5446
Visit us on the web at:
SPIRITOFLIFECHOCTAW.ORG

Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away May 23 in Ripley, Tenn.

He enjoyed playing stickball with his family & the Beaver Dam team, watching the Washington Redskins play football & playing PS3 with those he loved. He surrounded his loved ones with kindness & dignity that will forever be missed.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Grady & Betty John.

Survivors include parents, Calvin Sr. & Shelly Bell; sister, Justine Bell; brothers, Calvin Bell Jr., Timothy Bell, Matthew Bell, John Bell, Mickey John, Daniel Bell, & Jordan Bell; grandparents, George & Winchy Bell; four uncles, eight aunts, five nieces, & numerous cousins.

REUBEN BEN

Funeral services for Reuben Ben, 73, were held Sunday, June 13, 2010, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. The Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Hopewell Cemetery in Walnut Grove. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ben passed away June 9 at the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rufus Ben & Coline Isaac Ben; & a brother, Lester Ben.

He is survived by nieces, nephews & relatives.

ROSALIE STEVE

Funeral services for Rosalie Steve, 87, were held Monday, June 14, 2010, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Kenan Ryan officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Steve passed away on June 10 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alonzo & Eunice White Wilson; husband, John Bobo Steve; & sisters, Audie Day, Regina Chickaway, Lorraine Chickaway, & Laura Brennen.

Survivors include daughters, Margie Journeycake of Duncan, Okla., Loretta Wilson of Spokane, Wash., & Norma Jean Hickman of Philadelphia; sons, Joseph Steve of Carthage, Peter John Steve, Carl Steve & Timothy Steve, all of Philadelphia; step-daughters, Vivian Tubby of Philadelphia, Margaret Clounch of Norman, Okla., Sallie Canku of Rapid City, SD, & Kathy Steve of Philadelphia; step-son, John Steve of Durant, Okla.; special granddaughter, Marion Comby of Philadelphia; 14 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; a special friend, William McMillan; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARCUS DEWAYNE JEFFERSON

Funeral services for Marcus Dewayne Jefferson, 26, were held Wednesday, June 16, 2010, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Pastor George Dixon officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson passed away June 9 at the family home.

He attended Macedonia Baptist Church.

He liked drawing & was a member of the Conehatta stickball team. He was employed

......see OBITUARIES, pg. 24

A WORD OF THANKS

FROM THE FAMILY OF CHIEF PHILLIP MARTIN

To those of you long known to us and to those of you whom we met for the first time, in this time of our family's great loss, we are turning to the news media with the hope that our message of deepest gratitude will best reach you for all of your efforts on our behalf.

In the course of our life together, through our family life, our jobs, and the demands of political campaigns and tribal government, Phillip and I were fortunate to enjoy steadfast support and generosity from many individuals, far too numerous to name. Great numbers of you are fellow tribal members who have always been at our side. Others of you wished the tribe well and, through your actions, aided in our progress.

Now, in our most difficult of times for our family, you have once again come to our side, offering expert medical care, making arrangement to ease our way, and consoling us with your words of comfort and your warm and caring presence. We are comforted by your compassion knowing in our hearts your support, love, and prayers continuously lightens our burdens and strengthens our faith for brighter tomorrows. We have greatly appreciated your condolences, beautiful flowers, sympathy cards, and other acts of kindness that we have received during his illness and at the time of his passing.

We were especially heartened that so many of you shared your recollections with us. In particular, many of you told us of a son or daughter or grandchild who had been able to remain at home, near family, because of Phillip's work to create jobs for tribal members and non-tribal members alike. That was his long-held hope. He understood that we could not remain together as a tribe and a community if there were no jobs or homes for our children and grandchildren. He believed in our collective future and in the value of work by promoting and committing to self-determination and expanding and strengthening tribal sovereignty as the key to securing that future for generations to come.

On behalf of Phillip, for times past, and on behalf of our family now, we find it nearly impossible to adequately express our appreciation to all of you for the kindness during this time and for some over the course of a lifetime. As a family, we are blessed, humbled and honored to have you as our friends, inside and outside the tribe, and we thank you for being so loyal and giving. In our hearts, we know Phillip is looking upon our friends with great satisfaction from all the generosity and care you have shown to our family. And although his death is a heartbreaking loss, and our family's bereavement will not soon be over, many of us know his works near and far still continue, continuing his life-long legacy of generating greatness. God bless and thank you again for your support and encouragement now and in the days ahead.

Bonnie Kate Martin
Debbie, Winter and Graham Lewis
Patricia and Nigel Gibson
Megan Gibson, Derrick, Imearia, Devion Davis and Mahalia Gibson
Brittany Gibson, Tyler, Iverson and Jamearan Wallace

OBITUARIES

.... continued from page twenty-three

with Pearl River Resort as a porter, houseman & busser. He was also employed as a utility hand for Delta Catering.

He was preceded in death by his son, Marquise Jefferson; grandparents, Goldmon & Millie Jefferson and Edmond & Berdie Shoemake; & uncles, Robert Shoemake, John Shoemake & Arthur Shoemake.

Survivors include his wife, Chrisinda Jefferson; parents, Patty Shoemake & Leron Jefferson Sr.; sister, Tabetha Charlie; brothers, Armon Jefferson, Leron Jefferson Jr., Javeon Jefferson, Dallas Shoemake, & Joby Charlie; numerous aunts, uncles, great-aunts, a great-uncle, & a host of relatives & friends.

BRIGHTON GRANT THOMAS

Funeral services for Brighton Grant Thomas, a year old infant, were held Friday, June 18, 2010, from the Bogue Homa Community Gymnasium. The Rev. Robert Paul Tubby Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Homa Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Infant Thomas passed away June 14 at the family residence.

Survivors include parents, Todd & Lashonda Thomas; sisters, Lillian Thomas & Lacaniya Anderson; brothers, (twin) Justice Thomas, Manvelito Anderson Jr., Kaiden Anderson, Anfernee Thomas, & Katrel Thomas, all of Conehatta; aunts, uncles, grandparents, great-grandparents, & a host of relatives.

DAVID JAY SCHROCK

Funeral services for David Jay Schrock, 48, were held Monday, June 21, 2010, from the Pearl River Facility Building. Dennis Miller & Philip Knepp officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Schrock passed away June 17 at Riley Hospital in Meridian.

He was a carpenter, dairy farmer & an offshore oil driller.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Perry Jim & Lula Lane Jefferson; daughter, Deneetria Schrock; sister, Martha Drake; brother, David Thomas; grandparents, Victor & Lena Jim and Baxter Jefferson Jr. & Saline Farmer Jefferson.

Survivors include his son, Dakota Yoder; daughter, Shayla Yoder; six grandchildren; brothers, Levi Schrock, Allen Schrock, Alvin Jefferson, Feldon Jefferson, Fred Thomas; sisters, Bertha Gingerich, Esther Eby, Patsy Shoemake, Vi Miller, Katherine Schrock, Marie Miller, Ruth Carpenter; adoptive mother, Nettie Schrock; special friend, Maria Johnson; host of nieces, nephews, & a special brother-in-law, Alan Gingerich.

PRESSURE DREAM

Wonder if night turns eerily restless, will it need deeper silence over loud obscure moments or not... Only need exalt, yeah, exalt all reserves one last deafenin' ethereal relief howlin' a primitive primal yell beneath... Delicate agin' youngster who in turn has left universal views deep amongst deeds. True healin is relevant to you, fleein' over uneven reverie.

PRESSURE DREAM
Shares release from stale
REALITY
-ISSI

SPOKEN HEAT

Blazin' rumors are naturally numerous, offenses neverendin'. Whispered ever so lightly, evil yakkin', dim opinions, nasty talk, obscene views expose rather damagin' outbursts, invisible traps like unknown viruses usherin' demons, attactin' demons. Though hell is righteously tame yet, favorin' opinionated untrue rumors. Heavy artillery, pure patience, yes, beautiful... denyin' are yours.

SPOKEN HEAT
The insecure beings
speak heat. Be confident
about you. Step out.
-ISSI

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to our daddy, Keith Allen Willis, on July 13. Lots of love from Keshaun, Dewayne & Alaysia Anae. Love You!

Happy Birthday to Kayla Deann Stephens "Wales" on July 18, from your nieces & nephews Alaysia "Boo-Boo", Denise "Chinese", Deshaun "BOBO" & Kayleb "Alex"! Love you so much, Aunty!

Happy 18th Birthday to Nicole Denson on July 22. Hope you have a good one, from Cinda, Lay & Kina. We love you so much... & Nanna.

Happy Belated Birthday to Kenyon L. Vaughn on June 1, with love from Mom, Pernilla, Diego, Larry, & the rest of your family.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Anthony Justin King on July 17, 2010, & Happy 32nd Birthday to Niko Dixon on July 26, 2010, from everyone who loves you!

Happy Birthday to Reanna & Kameron Hickman on July 14 & July 8, from Mamo, Joe, KK, Cinda, & Shayna.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to James Byrd Willis on July 4, from all of us, Mina, Justin & your one & only sis. You mean the world to us for the many things you've done. For all the times that you were there, even though we might not say it but we appreciate all you do for us. Richly blessed is how we feel to have an uncle & a brother just like you. HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNCLE JAMES.

Belated Happy 4th Birthday wish to Mr. Zachary Billie Jr. on June 2. From all of us, Shauna, Eric & the girls (Shay-Shay, Shari & Sharrisa), Auntie, Mina & Justin. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ZACH!

Happy 39th Birthday to Kimberly Nickey on June 4, from your husband Kenny & kids Mikk, Emily & Cylas, We love you.

Happy Belated Birthday to my Mommy, LaRosa Thompson,

....continued next page

CONGRATULATIONS LETISIA!

Letisia Orduna, pictured right, recently graduated with honors from Nanih Waiya Attendance Center. Having a 90 & above average throughout high school, she was an active member in the Beta Club, student council for three years, the annual staff, & Nanih Waiya's book club, T.R.I.B.E., for two years. Her plans are to attend Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado & major in Native American studies. Letisia is the daughter of Juan Orduna & granddaughter of Ora Mae Galvan. "I'm PROUD of you & love you. Congratulations Tesha! Love from your grandma & your family."

on June 1. Love from Jonathan, Craig, Eli, Spencer, Maggie, & all your BC family & friends.

Happy Birthday to my wonderful husband, Dwight Cody Bell. We love you, from Chloe, Yaz & Wifey.

Happy Belated Birthday to Martina Chickaway on June 22. Love always from Maurice McMillan Jr.

Happy Birthday to Kirsten June Willis on June 7 & Gloria Jean Wilson on June 21, from Bruce & Andrea.

Happy Belated 10th Birthday to Brekaitya Sue Ray on June 28. We love you from Grandpa & Grandma Morris.

To my beautiful friend, Ms. Crystal D. Isaac, on July 9, 2010 - **One More Chapter** - You bring sunshine into my life & make the dark clouds go away. Every time I smile, it is because you give me a purpose to do so. And when I think of you, a beautiful image of a rainbow comes into my mind. I appreciate your friendship since I know it's of love & loyalty. Happy Birthday to you as you turn to a new chapter in life. I may not be there with you physically, yet I am there in spirit. I love you & I miss you. God Bless you on your birthday! Your friend, Jaye.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Mr. Elijah Wayne Ben on July 23, 2010 - **A Friend's Heart** - Words cannot begin to express the joy you bestow in my life by being a friend. Elijah, you are truly an inspiration & give me hope & encouragement. The understanding you bring unto me means so much in my life. And when you laugh, I still see the joy light up all around my world. It is because of you that I know everything will be just fine. You are Heaven sent & I sincerely appreciate you & your friendship. Happy Birthday to you & I hope it is full of love & happiness. God be with you til we meet again! Love ya' & miss ya! Your friend, Jaye.

An abundance of birthday blessings on July 26, 2010, for Mrs. Caroline Morris - **Coming of a New Day** - With all the love in your heart & soul, you give me hope. The hopes & dreams of my tomorrows glisten within that sparkle in your eye. Reflections of your courage & strength shine on me as a ray of sun. Caroline, I always know in my heart that your will be there for me. Through the wilderness in life, I see you at the end of this journey. For you, I wish Heaven's blessings to shine on you on your special day. As a cousin, I uplift you to God through my thoughts, heart & prayers. God bless you. I love you & I miss you! Much love, Jaye.

Happy Birthday to our "pinti osi" Vashae Billy on July 1. Lots of love from your Mom & Dad, sista & brothers, Mamo Chickaway, Auntie Chirs, Moshi Monte... Also, Happy Birthday to our wonderful & greatest dad & papo Troy Chickaway on July 6. With lots of love from Chris, Shonie, Chinese, & grandkids... Congratulations! to Monte on receiving his license for Youth Minister on June 6. "Of all the things you've accomplished in your life all these years, you make us very proud. Keep following your heart." Love always, your mom Linda, sistas Chirs & Shon, nieces & nephews, & Chinese.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WILDFIRE!

On July 21, you will be six thousand, two-hundred & five days old!! Many blessings & I Love Ya... Always, your Mama.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNIE!!!

On July 4, we're with you for the best of your life! We love you, from Me&Jenna.

Happy Birthday!!!

On July 30, guess who's turning 42. Love from your favs, Mommy & Penette.

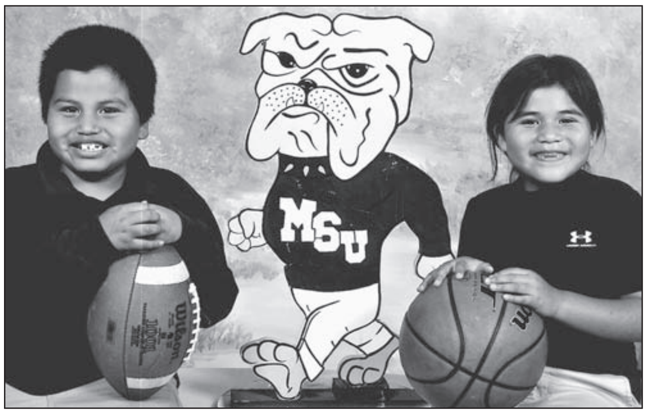
Happy Birthdays to our lil monkeys for June & July. To Hofante, Happy Belated 13th Birthday on June 28 & also to Brantley Wilson on June 28. Happy 14th Birthday to Jessidy on July 17. Love from Grandma Tubby & family.

We wish Chasen Luke a very Happy 3rd Birthday on July 16. With lots of love from Kylie, Caleb, Mom, Dad, & the rest of the family.

***LEFT**, Our Precious Layla Faith Williams, 5 years of age on July 4. You are a rich blessing to all of us. We love you, from Mom & Dad, BJ, Maya, Cousin Jaeden, Auntie Dee, Thangi, Grandmas Loretta Williams & Vicki L.*

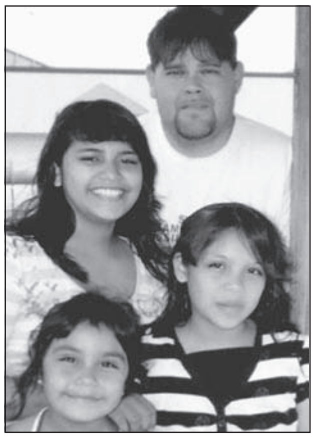
GIBBY TURNS 1

Happy 1st Birthday to Lil Miss Haylen Couture Thomas (right) on July 30, 2010. With all the love, hugs & kisses from your mom, your big sister Nedra & your big brother Hayden. We love you.



Happy Birthday! Jalen Jamal will turn 8 on July 2 & Jalissa Kaye will turn 7 on July 10. With lots of love from Mom, Dad, Dreshawn Kane, Kelli Nicole, & the rest of the family.

TO MY LOVING HUSBAND & A FATHER TO MY KIDS - THE MAN WE LOVE WITH ALL OUR HEARTS



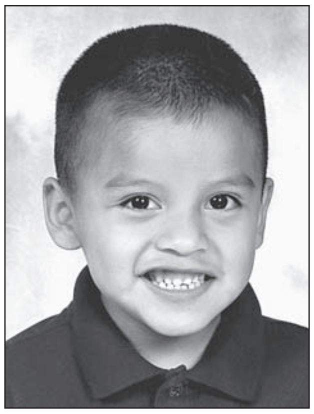
Thank you for all the ways you've brought your caring & support into our family life & all the happiness you've brought to our heart. You made a difference in our lives & for this we are grateful. Thank you for being the special man you are - the man we love so very, very much. Happy Father's Day! From your loving wife, Sheila, & the kids, Nika, Tikeshia & Tysheena. Also, Happy 6th Birthday to Tysheena Latrice McMillan on July 27. We love you Bubba. From Mom, Daddy Juice, Nika, Tikeshia, & family.

Happy 5th Birthday to Aison Jim on July 18 & Happy 6th Birthday to Andre'as Jim on July 28. From all of your family members in Bogue Chitto & Pearl River. We love you guys!

Happy Birthday to Khalid "KK" Hickman on July 27 & to Descinda Hickman on July 15, from your family.

On the day you were born, you looked into my eyes as I looked into yours... I saw HEAVEN. Your beauty is like an angel from HEAVEN ABOVE. A gift from GOD. I thank GOD for bringing you into my life. Your smile is like the Caribbean ocean... beautiful. Your eyes shines like glitter! You are my light in my life! You shall remain in my heart & soul for Eternity.

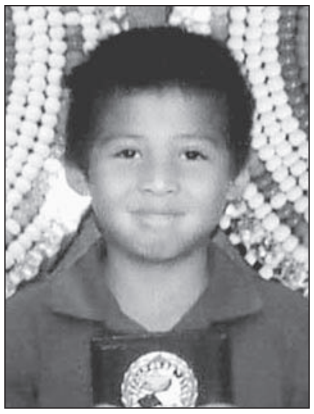
On July 15 & August 2, we were blessed with two beautiful girls. Happy 1st Birthday to Chloe Taliah Bell & Happy 10th Birthday Yaz, from the Bell & Cotton Families.



Happy Belated 5th Birthday on June 2 to Spencer Keith Thompson. Love from your Mommy, Daddy, Craig, Eli, Maggie, Mammo, Pappo, Shombi, & the rest of BC family.

Happy Birthday to our Dad, Afo & Uncle R.J. Willis on July 11. We love you, from your daughter, son, grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

Happy SWEET SIXTEEN to Shaye Mackinzie Scott on June 21, 2010.
Love & blessings from Mom, Dad, Aro, Gma, & your Creek family of OK

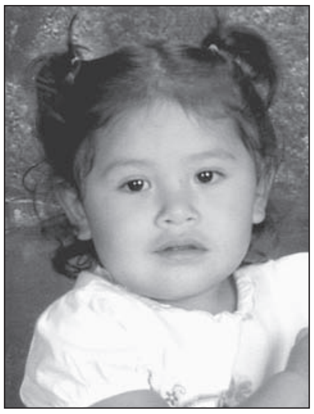


Happy 7th Birthday to Chris 'Sonney' Lewis II on July 15 & Happy 10th Birthday to LaChrisha Williams on August 2, from Mommy, Daddy& Baby Seth... Also, Happy Birthday to our Daddy, 'Speedy' on July 18, from Chrisha, Sonney, Baby Seth & Lasha. We Love You!

Happy Belated Birthday to Luppie Lorenzo Cotton, from Momma. I love you Be Be!

Happy Birthday Ambi on July 28. We Love You!

It seems like only a few years ago this guy was just 5 years old. Now he'll be 15 on July 30. Happy Birthday to the courteous Craig Hiloha Nickey & congratulations to you on what you have achieved. May God continue to bestow blessings upon you throughout your journey. WAY TO GO CRAIGSTER! Love Henderson, Gloria, Kara, Ty, Sarah, Rocky, & Allyson.



Happy 2nd Birthday to Mahayla Kay Tubby, from Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Vickie, & the rest of the family.

Happy 4th birthday to our baby, Boyce O'Neal Thomas, on July 4. God Blessed us with you 4 years ago & it has been a great blessing to have you in our lives. Love you "bub" from Mom, Dad, Shilop, & Gat.

Happy 4th Birthday to Boyce "Butterbean" Thomas on July 4. With lots of love & kisses from "Sista" Ashton, Aunt Sharron, Uncle Rick, Boi, & Stormin.

Happy 1st Birthday on July 24 to Joseph Bennett Sockey. Joey is the son of Richard & Marion Sockey of the Standing Pine Community. His grandparents are Harrison & Mary Ben of Standing Pine and the late Edmund & Evelyn Martin of Pearl River.

Happy 4th Birthday to Chailyn Dixon on July 26, from your family.

Happy 7th Birthday to Grandma's Lil Princess Taylor "Tay-Tay" Morris on July 18. We Luv U! From Mom, Dad & the two Heartbreakers Lanien & Brendon.

Mi̱ko Beasley Denson Welcomes All to the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair July 14-17, 2010

Halito!

Welcome to the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair! Every summer since 1949, we have invited people to come have a good time on our reservation. We offer four days of music, culture and fun to visitors around the globe. Our fair has become an institution and is one of the top ten summer events in the Southeast.

The Choctaw Indian Fair is similar to our famous baskets you will see around the fairgrounds. For centuries, our people have woven beautiful works of art out of swamp cane gathered from local creek banks. With our fair, we weave various aspects of our culture in with great entertainment to create an event that is one of a kind.

You won't have to look far for kid-friendly activities. There are train rides, clowns, magicians, face painting, and the midway. We also have a new cultural exhibit, called ***Chahta immi i̱hinoshi*** **(Choctaw Ways Path)**. Kids will learn about our culture and take part in activities such as pottery making, pony bead making, little drum making, rabbit stick throwing, and animal storytelling.

This year's musical line up includes Motown legends, the Four Tops, and country music chart toppers Tracy Lawrence, the Lost Trailers and Sara Evans. Don't miss Aboriginal Entertainer of the Year, Shane Yellowbird, on Friday night.

All this great music will provide the soundtrack to the crowning of our 2010-2011 Choctaw Indian Princess and cultural exhibitions like our social dancing, traditional dress, blowgun demonstrations and basket weaving. Be sure to come hungry and sample our traditional Choctaw foods. Each bears the distinct taste of the Tribal community in which they were made.

This year, for the first time, we are very proud to present a drama based on the history of our Tribe. **Choctaw Journey: Chahta Alheha Anowa** is a dramatic reenactment of our Tribe's road through many hardships and ends with the recent reclamation of our "Mother Mound", Nanih Waiya.

The Choctaw Indian Fair is the site of the World Series of Stickball. There is not a more exciting demonstration of Choctaw tradition and culture than when Tribal members pick up the *kabocca* and *towa*, stickball sticks and balls, like those used by our ancestors for hundreds of years. They will do battle just as past generations have done. Watching this sport that was originally created as a method of conflict resolution, you can see the pride of the participants as they demonstrate one of the elements of our unique culture - a culture that makes us who we are and ties us together as a tribe and as a family.

While Choctaw traditions belong to the Choctaw people, the Choctaw Indian Fair is our opportunity to share them with our friends, neighbors and visitors. Thank you for joining us.

Yakoki!

Mi̱ko Beasley Denson &
First Lady Lena Denson

Beasley Denson
Tribal Mi̱ko
Mississippi Band of
Choctaw Indians

Contestants in this year's Choctaw Princess Pageant

CHOCTAW, Miss. - Nine lovely young Choctaw ladies will vie for the highly-coveted title of 2010-2011 Choctaw Indian Princess during the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair.

Contestants include:

Sahinna Dawn Anderson, 17 year-old daughter of Ricky Anderson Sr. of the Red Water Community and Trina Faye Jim of the Pearl River Community. She is being sponsored by the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

Mahli Jaynae Bell, 17 year-old daughter of Crystal and Jason Bell Sr. of the Tucker Community. She is being sponsored by the Choctaw Health Center Employee's Association.

Martika Deidra Bell, 18 year-old daughter of Thurman and Dorothy Bell of the Bogue Chitto Community. She is being sponsored by Bogue Chitto Development Club.

.......see PAGEANT, pg. 28

Contestants for this year's Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant are, front row from left, Sahinna Dawn Anderson, Ariel Kelsey Thompson, Jessica Martinez; back row, Martika Deidra Bell, Raven SueAnn Comby, Mercedes Star Cotton, Mahlih Rene Vaughn, Amber Shenell Hickman, & Mahli Jaynae Bell. The pageant will be held Wednesday, July 14 at 7 p.m. at the Pearl River Amphitheater.

PAGEANT .... continued from page twenty-seven

Raven SueAnn Comby, 16 year-old daughter of Tim and Marion Comby of the Tucker Community. She is being sponsored by Tucker Development Club.

Mercedes Star Cotton, 19 year-old daughter of Robert and Patricia Cotton of the Pearl River Community. She is being sponsored by AGT.

Amber Shenell Hickman, 18 year-old daughter of Jeffery and Sarah Hickman of the Conehatta Community. She is being sponsored by Conehatta Development Club.

Jessica Martinez, 16 year-old daughter of Janice Martinez of the Red Water Community. She is being sponsored by Red Water Development Club.

Ariel Kelsey Thompson, 18 year-old daughter of Mary Kay Thompson of the Pearl River Community. She is being sponsored by Pearl River Resort.

Mahlih Rene Vaughn, 18 year-old daughter of Harley and Rae Nell Vaughn of the Pearl River Community. She is being sponsored by Pearl River Community Development Club.

Contestant escorts will be Joshua Thomas and Ethan Smith.

Joshua Thomas is the 18 year-old grandson of Jesse and Velma Thomas of the Conehatta community. He will be a freshman this fall at East Central Community

..........continued next page

Sahinna Dawn Anderson
Choctaw Tribal Schools

Mahli Jaynae Bell
Choctaw Health Center Employee's Association

Martika Deidra Bell
Bogue Chitto Development Club

Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis says farewell

Halito *(Hello)!*

I am the 2009-2010 Choctaw Indian Princess, Famie Cheyenne Willis. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and I would like to welcome each and every one of you to our 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair here in beautiful Choctaw, MS. We are honored to have you help us celebrate this special time of the year where we display our culture and tradition. There is something here for young and old alike with many fun activities as well as educational. We hope this will be an unforgettable experience for you and that you will want to return to the Choctaw Indian Fair every year.

It seems like only yesterday I was crowned to be the next Choctaw Indian Princess. God has truly blessed me so much with this opportunity of representing my people. I remember every moment, every second, and every detail of that tense, but special, night. From the practices to the banquets, every moment was hard work, but I learned something new every day. Just being able to meet new people I have never met before, the other contestants, was exciting to me.

On the day of the pageant, I remember praying backstage asking God to bless me with at least one award. Even if I did not receive anything I would still thank Him for the opportunity of being in the pageant. On July 8, 2009, I was blessed with more than I originally asked. God not only blessed me with receiving the title of 2009-2010 Choctaw Indian Princess, but He also blessed me with Miss Photogenic, Miss Congeniality, and Talent Show awards. This was beyond my expectations.

I have had the privilege of meeting new people, traveling, attending ribbon cuttings, speaking at churches, and attending local functions. I was honored to share my culture with other natives from different tribes and non-Indians. I was also educated in other cultures as well. Being the Choctaw Indian Princess has helped me in many ways. For example, it has helped me become more prepared for anything that comes my way. Being Princess is not just a beauty pageant, it is a job. I encourage any young lady who wants to be in this pageant to be prepared for anything and everything, but most of all, remember to put God first in your life.

To the contestants of this year, I wish each of you the best in everything you do! I know what all of you are going through because I remember how nervous I was during the pageant. Just work hard, do your best, and stay true to yourself. You do not have to have the title Choctaw Indian Princess in order to represent our Tribe; you are already a representative because you are Choctaw. Being the Chahta ohoyo you are should make you very proud to represent our Tribe. In God's eyes, all of you are winners.

To our next ambassador, Congratulations! I know you will make us proud. I hope you will enjoy this wonderful experience as much as I did. This is a once in-a-lifetime opportunity, so take full advantage of it. You will have fun and there will be good times, but when the hard times come knocking on your door, make the best of any situation that you face. Great job and good luck!

2009-2010 Choctaw Indian Princess
Famie Cheyenne Willis

To our guests, again, thank you for attending our 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair and we hope you have a wonderful time here. We hope to see ya'll again next year!

Yakoki (Thank you)!

Famie Cheyenne Willis

Famie Cheyenne Willis
2009-2010 Choctaw Indian Princess

College.

Ethan Smith is the 17 year-old grandson of Melford and Karen Smith of the Conehatta Community. He will be a freshman this fall at East Central Community College.

The 2010 Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at the Pearl River Amphitheater on the Choctaw Indian fairgrounds in Choctaw, Miss.

The talent portion of the contest will be held on Monday, July 12, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the Silver Star Convention Center, also in Choctaw, Miss.

In addition to the pageant, fairgoers can enjoy four fun-filled days of Choctaw culture and spirit including Tribal arts, crafts, dances, foods, and the thrilling action of World Championship Stickball. The Fair offers fun for young and old alike, from exhilarating rides and contests to incredible nightly performances. There's something for everyone at the Choctaw Indian Fair!

Tickets for all acts and other fair activities, excluding carnival rides, are: $15 for adult season passes, $10 for adult day passes, $10 for student season passes and $5 for student day passes. Children five and under get in free. To learn more about all the Fair has to offer, call (601) 650-7450 or visit www.choctawindianfair.com.

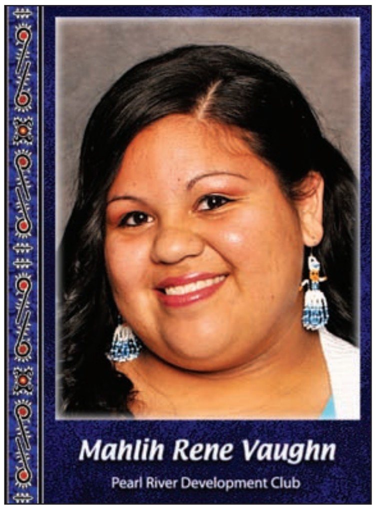
Raven SueAnn Comby
Tucker Development Club

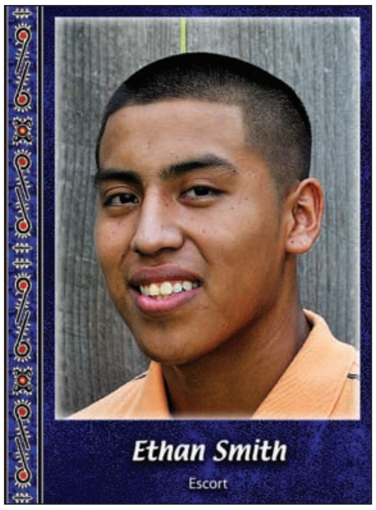
Mercedes Star Cotton
Applied Geo Technologies, Inc.

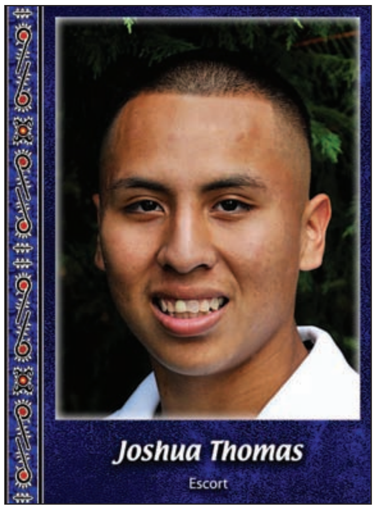
Amber Shenell Hickman
Conehatta Development Club

Jessica Martinez
Red Water Development Club

Ariel Kelsey Thompson
Pearl River Resort


Mahlih Rene Vaughn
Pearl River Development Club


Ethan Smith
Escort


Joshua Thomas
Escort

Choctaw Princess Pageant Committee

Members of this year's Choctaw Princess Pageant Committee are, from left, Sylvia Johnson, Natasha Willis, Bernadine Dixon, Mary Harrison, Raeline McMillan, & Deborah Henry.

61ST ANNUAL CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRE-FAIR ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, JULY 08, 2010

4:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
35 & Over Game #1
Bok Cito vs Beaver Dam
FOOTBALL FIELD

5:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women's Game # 1
Beaver Dam vs Conehatta Ohoyo
FOOTBALL FIELD

6:30 pm Choctaw Stickball:
35 & Over Game #2
Koni Hata vs 16 POW WOW
FOOTBALL FIELD

7:30 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women's Game #2
Bok Cito vs Bihhi Ayasha
FOOTBALL FIELD

9:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Men's Game #1
Bok Cito vs Tucker
FOOTBALL FIELD

FRIDAY, JULY 09, 2010

4:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
35 & Over
Oka Homma vs Winner Game #1
FOOTBALL FIELD

5:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women's Game #3
Tali Ohoyo vs Nanih Waiya Ohoyo
FOOTBALL FIELD

6:30 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women's Game #4
Lady Warriors vs Winner Game # 1
FOOTBALL FIELD

7:30 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women Game #5
Ohoyo Nukoachi vs Winner Game #2

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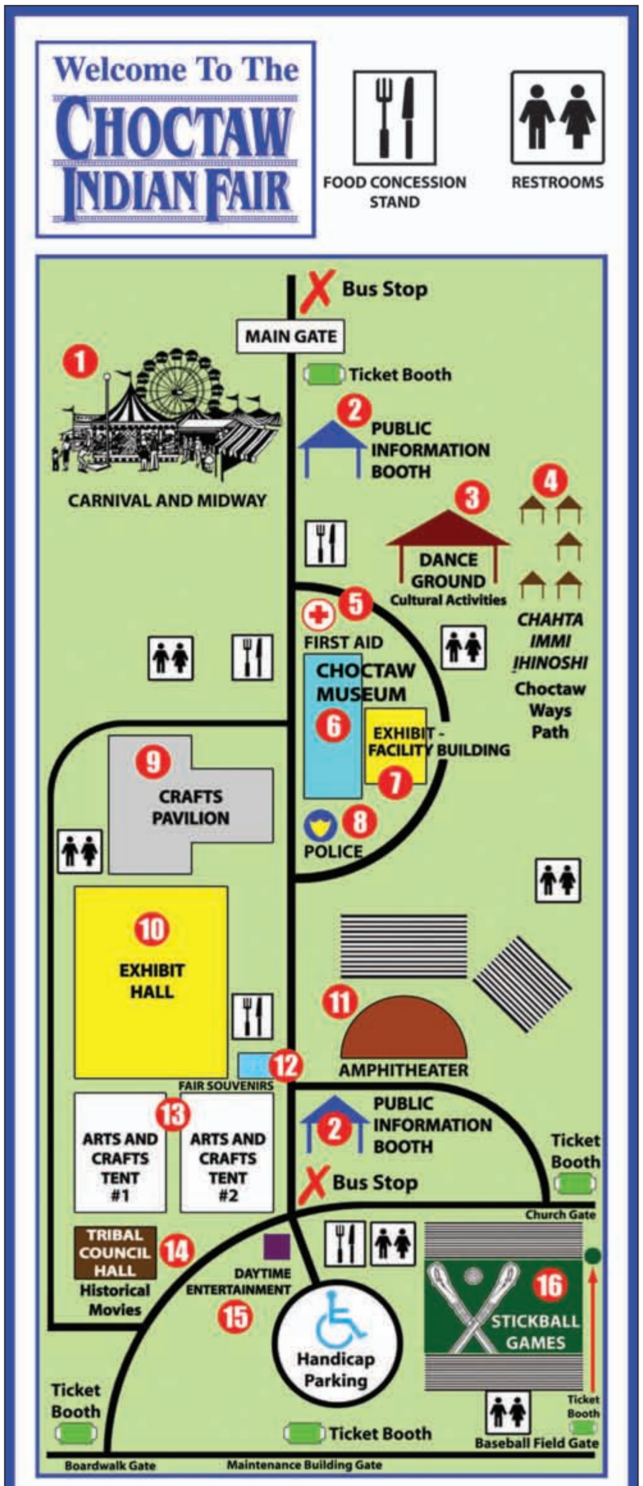

Welcome To The
CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR
FOOD CONCESSION STAND
RESTROOMS
Bus Stop
MAIN GATE
Ticket Booth
1
CARNIVAL AND MIDWAY
2
PUBLIC INFORMATION BOOTH
3
DANCE GROUND
Cultural Activities
4
CHAHTA IMMI ĮHINOSHI
Choctaw Ways Path
5
FIRST AID
CHOCTAW MUSEUM
6
EXHIBIT - FACILITY BUILDING
7
8
POLICE
9
CRAFTS PAVILION
10
EXHIBIT HALL
11
AMPHITHEATER
12
FAIR SOUVENIRS
13
ARTS AND CRAFTS TENT #1
ARTS AND CRAFTS TENT #2
2
PUBLIC INFORMATION BOOTH
Bus Stop
Ticket Booth
Church Gate
TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL
14
Historical Movies
DAYTIME ENTERTAINMENT
15
Handicap Parking
16
STICKBALL GAMES
Ticket Booth
Ticket Booth
Ticket Booth
Baseball Field Gate
Boardwalk Gate
Maintenance Building Gate

Fair Communication number, 601.650.1557, or call direct ext. 1557.

1 **CARNIVAL AND MIDWAY**
- W-TH, 4 pm-1 am; F, 3 pm-2 am; S, 12 pm-2 am

2 **PUBLIC INFORMATION BOOTHS**
- Everyday, 10 am-8 pm

3 **DANCE GROUND**
Choctaw traditional social dancing and cultural activities
- W-TH, 11 am-4 pm; F-S, 10 am-4 pm

4 ***CHAHTA IMMI ĮHINOSHI* (CHOCTAW WAYS PATH)**
Cultural activities
- W-TH, 11 am-5:30 pm; F-S, 9:30 am-5:30 pm

5 **FIRST AID STATION**
- Everyday, 10 am-midnight

6 **CHOCTAW MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN INDIAN**
- W-TH, 11 am-9 pm; F-S, 9 am-11 pm

7 **EXHIBIT - FACILITY BUILDING**
Information booths and displays
- W-TH, 11 am-5:30 pm; F-S, 9 am-5:30 pm

8 **CHOCTAW POLICE DEPARTMENT MOBILE UNIT**
- Everyday, 8 am to close of midway

9 **CRAFTS PAVILION**
Local and regional artisans showcase their talents through their arts and crafts
- W-TH, 11 am-11 pm; F-S, 9 am-11 pm

10 **EXHIBIT HALL**
Exhibits featuring local Choctaw community booths, 4-H, youth and adult arts and crafts
- W-TH, 11 am-11 pm; F-S, 9 am-11 pm

11 **PEARL RIVER AMPHITHEATER**
Events featured include Mjko Denson and guests, the 2010 Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant, the Choctaw Journey drama, and concerts.

12 **FAIR SOUVENIR STAND**
- Everyday, 10 am-10 pm

13 **ARTS AND CRAFTS TENTS**
- W-F, 11 am-10 pm; S, 9 am-until

14 **TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL**
Historical movies
- W-TH, 11 am-5:30 pm; F-S, 10 am-5:30 pm

15 **DAYTIME ENTERTAINMENT**
- W-TH, 11 am-6 pm; F-S, 9 am-6 pm

16 **WARRIOR STADIUM**
World Series of Stickball games

FOOTBALL FIELD

9:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Men's Game #2
Tiak Hikiya vs Unified
FOOTBALL FIELD

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2010

7:00 am Registration/Sign In for 2 Mile Walk/Run
PEARL RIVER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

8:00 am Walk/Run Event Start

6:00 pm-10:00 pm Midway Opens: No Gate Admission - Kids Day Special Low Rates
MIDWAY

3:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women's Game # 6
Lady Renegades vs Tiak Hikiya
FOOTBALL FIELD

4:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Men's Game #3
Beaver Dam vs Nukoachi
FOOTBALL FIELD

5:30 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Men's Game #4
Renegades vs Oka Homma
FOOTBALL FIELD

7:30 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Men's Game #5
Warriors vs Koni Hata
FOOTBALL FIELD

9:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Men's Game # 6
Nanih Waiya vs Winner Game #1
FOOTBALL FIELD

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2010

6:00 pm-10:00 pm Midway Open - No Gate Admission - Pre-Fair Special Low Rates
MIDWAY

4:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Pushmataha Division, Boys 10-13
Conehatta vs Warriors
FOOTBALL FIELD

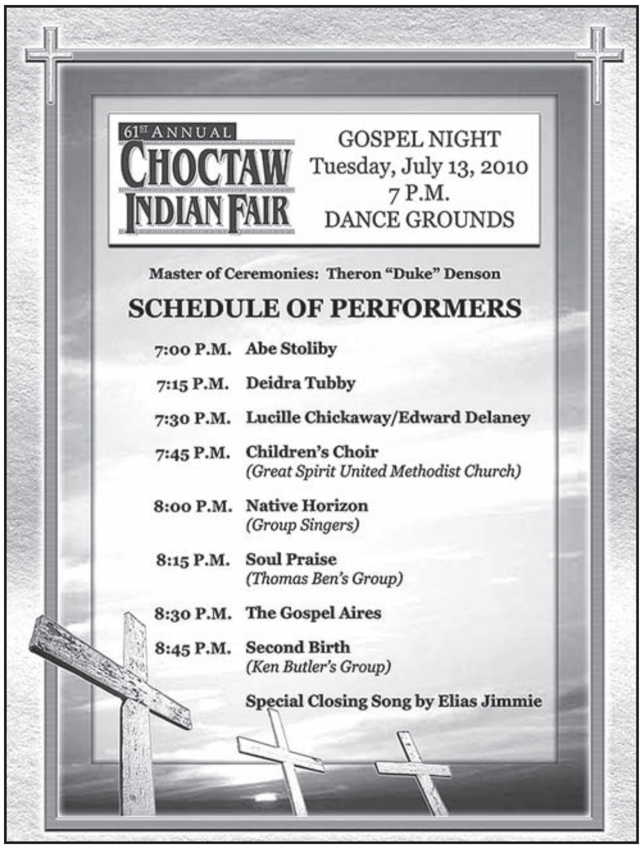
5:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Pushmataha Division, Boys 10-13
Unified vs Oka Homma
FOOTBALL FIELD

6:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women's Game # 7
Winner Game #3 vs Winner Game #4
FOOTBALL FIELD

6:00 pm 2010 Princess Pageant Talent Show
SILVER STAR CONVENTION CENTER

7:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women's Game # 8
Winner Game # 5 vs Winner Game # 6
FOOTBALL FIELD

8:30 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Men's Game # 7
Winner Game #2 vs OK Choctaws



61ST ANNUAL CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR

GOSPEL NIGHT
Tuesday, July 13, 2010
7 P.M.
DANCE GROUNDS

Master of Ceremonies: Theron "Duke" Denson

SCHEDULE OF PERFORMERS

7:00 P.M. **Abe Stoliby**
7:15 P.M. **Deidra Tubby**
7:30 P.M. **Lucille Chickaway/Edward Delaney**
7:45 P.M. **Children's Choir** *(Great Spirit United Methodist Church)*
8:00 P.M. **Native Horizon** *(Group Singers)*
8:15 P.M. **Soul Praise** *(Thomas Ben's Group)*
8:30 P.M. **The Gospel Aires**
8:45 P.M. **Second Birth** *(Ken Butler's Group)*
Special Closing Song by Elias Jimmie

FOOTBALL FIELD

10:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Men's Game #8
Winner Game #3 vs Winner Game #4
FOOTBALL FIELD

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2010

1:30 pm Judging of all 4-H and Adult booths, entries
PEARL RIVER GYM

4:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Pushmataha Division, Boys ages 10-13
Bok Cito vs Beaver Dam
FOOTBALL FIELD

5:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Tulli Okchi Ishko Division, Boys ages 14-17
Oka Homma vs Bok Cito
FOOTBALL FIELD

5:00 pm-11:00 pm Family Night - No Gate Admission, Pre-Fair Special Low Rates
MIDWAY

6:00 pm Judging of Community Booths
PEARL RIVER GYM

6:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
40 & Over
North vs South
FOOTBALL FIELD

7:00 pm Gospel Night
DANCE GROUND

7:30 pm Choctaw Stickball:
35 & Over
Winner Game # 2 vs Winner Game #3
FOOTBALL FIELD

9:00 pm Choctaw Stickball:
Women's Championship

Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi (Choctaw Ways Path)

OBJECTIVE: *To build cultural demonstration ramadas to shelter hands-on cultural activities at Chahta Immi Ihinoshi for children and visitors at the 61th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair.*

SCHEDULE for CPP STAFF:

Wednesday-Saturday, July 14-17, 2010, from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., daily.

- Peggy Williams (Ramada I) *shikalla tana*. Pony beads beading, ex. Bracelet (Learn the different colors & counting in Choctaw).
- Diana Ben (Ramada II) *alhipa chito holba ikbi*. Miniature drum making (Learning the purpose of drum beating in the Choctaw culture).
- Amanda Bell (Ramada III) *shokka annopa anoli*. Story telling (Shokka Annopa - using animal puppets, talk about why we honor the animals).
- Phyllis McMillan (Ramada IV) *shoti ikbi*. Pottery making using playdoh/clay.
- (Summer Youth Worker) (Ramada V) *iti ishnipa pila*. Rabbit stick throw (3 tries).

Tour Guide/Gopher (Summer Youth Worker) Give instructions & directions.

RULES & GUIDELINES

1. CPP is not responsible for accidents or injuries.
2. Listen to guide or assistant for instructions.
3. Respect others at all times.
4. Be nice to each other, no fighting, no foul language.
5. For your safety we encourage shoes to be worn or feet to be covered.
6. No standing on the benches.

Winner Game #7 vs Winner Game # 8
FOOTBALL FIELD

THE 61st ANNUAL CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010

11:00 am	Gates Open
11:00 am	Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian Opens
11:00 am	All Exhibit Halls Open
11:00 am	Fun Fest: Rock Climbing Wall, Gyroscope (Throughout the day until 6 pm) **HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE**
11:00 am	Train Ride (rides throughout the day until 6 pm) **IN FRONT OF CRAFT PAVILION**
11:00 am	Buttons the Clown (Throughout the day until 5 pm) **ROAMING**
11:00 am	Ron Anderson Face Painting (Throughout the day until 6 pm) **ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION**
11:00 am	David Talley, Magician and Balloon Artist (Throughout the day until 6 pm) **ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION**
11:00 am- 5:30 pm	Historical Movies **TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL**
	CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BEGIN:
11:00 am-5:30 pm	Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi (Choctaw Ways Path) Hands on Activities: Beading Miniature Drum making Puppet Storytelling Pottery Making Rabbit Stick Throw **BEHIND DANCE GROUND**
11:00 am-11:45 am	Choctaw Social Dancing Happy Feet Social Dancers, Glen and Jo Billie, Manager **DANCE GROUND**
11:45 am-12:00 pm	Blow Gun Demonstration/ Competition **DANCE GROUND**
12:00 pm-1:00 pm	Derrick Davis, Hoop Dancer **DANCE GROUND**
1:00 pm	Fun Fest: Gyroscope, Rock Climbing Wall (Throughout the day until 6 pm) **HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE**
1:00 pm	Train Ride (rides throughout the day until 6 pm) **IN FRONT OF CRAFT PAVILION**
1:00 pm	Buttons the Clown (Throughout the day until 5 pm) **ROAMING**
1:00 pm	Ron Anderson Face Painting (Throughout the day until 6 pm) **ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION**
1:00 pm	David Talley, Magician and Balloon Artist (Throughout the day until 6 pm) **ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION**
1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Historical Movies **TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL**
1:00 pm-5:30 pm	Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi (Choctaw Ways Path) Hands on Activities: Beading Miniature Drum making Puppet Storytelling Pottery Making Rabbit Stick Throw **BEHIND DANCE GROUND**
1:00 pm-1:45 pm	Choctaw Social Dancing Conehatta Development Club Social Dancers, Darlene Vaughn, Manager **DANCE GROUND**
1:45 pm-2:00 pm	Blow Gun Demonstration/Competition **DANCE GROUND**
2:00 pm-2:45 pm	Choctaw Social Dancing Chahta Alla Himithowa Social Dancers, Loretta York, Manager **DANCE GROUND**
2:45 pm-3:00 pm	Blow Gun Demonstration/Competition **DANCE GROUND**
3:00 pm	Midway Opens **MIDWAY**
3:00 pm-3:45 pm	Choctaw Social Dancing Bogue Homa Social Dancers, Pearlie Thomas, Manager **DANCE GROUND**
3:45 pm-4:00 pm	Derrick Davis, Hoop Dancer **DANCE GROUND**
4:00 pm	Junior Stickball: Pushmataha Division, Boys ages 10-13 Tucker vs Pearl River **FOOTBALL FIELD**
5:00 pm	Junior Stickball: Tulli Okchi Ishko Division, Boys 14-17 Conehatta vs Beaver Dam **FOOTBALL FIELD**
5:30 pm	Downstairs Facility Informational Booths Close
6:00 pm	**Evening Program,** **Opening Ceremonies:** **Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and Special Guests** -Drummer -Presentation of the Colors -National Anthem -Invocation -Introduction of Special Guests -Choctaw Social Dancing: Elderly Group Dancers Mary John, Manager **AMPHITHEATER**
7:00 pm	2010 Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant **AMPHITHEATER**
9:00 pm	Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian closes
10:00 pm	Choctaw Stickball: Men's Game #9 Winner Game # 5 vs Pearl River **FOOTBALL FIELD**
11:00 pm	Exhibit Halls Close
1:00 am	Midway closes
2:00 am	Last Shuttle Bus Runs

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010

11:00 am	Gates Open
11:00 am	Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian Opens
11:00 am	All Exhibit Halls Open
11:00 am	Fun Fest: Gyroscope, Rock Climbing Wall (Throughout the day until 6 pm) **HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE**
11:00 am	Train Ride

(Rides throughout the day until 6 pm)
IN FRONT OF CRAFT PAVILION

11:00 am Buttons the Clown
(Throughout the day until 5 pm)
ROAMING

11:00 am David Talley, Magician and Balloon Artist
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION

11:00 am Ron Anderson Face Painting
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION

11:00 am-5:00 pm Historical Movies
TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BEGIN:

11:00 am-5:30 pm Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi
(Choctaw Ways Path)
Hands on Activities:
Beading
Miniature Drum making
Puppet Storytelling
Pottery Making
Rabbit Stick Throw
BEHIND DANCE GROUND

11:00 am-11:45 am Choctaw Social Dancing
Bogue Chitto Youth Social Dancers,
Fairra Thomas/Elsie Hickman, Managers
DANCE GROUND

11:45 am-12:00 pm Introduction of 2010 Choctaw Indian Princess
DANCE GROUND

12:00 pm-1:00 pm Derrick Davis, Hoop Dancer
DANCE GROUND

1:00 pm Fun Fest:
Gyroscope, Rock Climbing Wall
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE

1:00 pm Train Ride
(rides throughout the day until 6 pm)
IN FRONT OF CRAFT PAVILION

1:00 pm Buttons the Clown
(Throughout the day until 5 pm)
ROAMING

1:00 pm Ron Anderson Face Painting
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION

1:00 pm David Talley, Magician and Balloon Artist
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION

1:00 pm-5:30 pm Historical Movies
TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL

1:00 pm-5:30 pm Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi
(Choctaw Ways Path)
Hands on Activities:
Beading
Miniature Drum making
Puppet Storytelling
Pottery Making
Rabbit Stick Throw
BEHIND DANCE GROUND

1:00 pm-1:45 pm Puppet/Animal Show
DANCE GROUND

1:45 pm-2:45 pm Derrick Davis, Hoop Dancer
DANCE GROUND

2:45 pm-3:00 pm Blow Gun Demonstration/Competition
DANCE GROUND

3:00 pm-3:45 pm Puppet/Animal Show
DANCE GROUND

3:45 pm-4:00 pm Blow Gun Demonstration/Competition
DANCE GROUND

3:00 pm Midway Opens
MIDWAY

4:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Pushmataha Division, Boys ages 10-13
Winner Game # 1 vs Winner Game #2
FOOTBALL FIELD

5:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Tulli Okchi Ishko Division, Boys 14-17
Unified vs Winner Game #1
FOOTBALL FIELD

5:30 pm Downstairs Facility Informational Booths Close

6:00 pm **Evening Ceremonies:**
Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and Special Guests
-Drummer
-Presentation of the Colors
-National Anthem
-Invocation
-Introduction of the 2010 Choctaw Indian Princess
-Introduction of Special Guests
-Choctaw Social Dancing
Bogue Chitto Social Dancers,
Lola Jackson, Manager
AMPHITHEATER

7:00 pm Chahta Ahleha Anowa-Choctaw Journey
AMPHITHEATER

8:30 pm The Four Tops in Concert
AMPHITHEATER

9:00 pm The Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian closes

10:00 pm Choctaw Stickball Playoffs:
Game # 10
Winner of Game #6 vs Winner of Game #7
FOOTBALL FIELD

11:00 pm Exhibit Halls Close

1:00 am Midway closes

2:00 am Last Shuttle Bus Runs

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010

9:00 am Gates open

9:00 am Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian Opens

9:00 am All Exhibit Halls Open

9:00 am Buttons the Clown
(Throughout the day until 5 pm)
ROAMING

9:00 am Ron Anderson Face Painting
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION

9:00 am David Talley, Magician and Balloon Artist
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION

10:00 am-5:30 pm Historical Movies
TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BEGIN:

9:30 am-5:30 pm Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi
(Choctaw Ways Path)
Hands on Activities:
Beading
Miniature Drum making
Puppet Storytelling
Pottery Making
Rabbit Stick Throw
BEHIND DANCE GROUND

10:00 am-10:45 am Choctaw Social Dancing
Choctaw Children Social Dancers,
Phyllis McMillan, Manager
DANCE GROUND

10:45 am-11:00 am Introduction of 2010 Choctaw Indian Princess
DANCE GROUND

11:00 am Fun Fest:
Gyroscope, Rock Climbing Wall
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE

11:00 am Train Ride
(rides throughout the day until 6pm)
IN FRONT OF CRAFT PAVILION

11:00 am-11:45 pm Choctaw Social Dancing
Conehatta Chahta Okla Social Dancers,
Agnes King, Manager
DANCE GROUND

11:45 am-12:00 pm Blow Gun Demonstration/Competition
DANCE GROUND

12:00 pm-1:00 pm Derrick Davis, Hoop Dancer
DANCE GROUND

1:00 pm-5:30 pm Historical Movies
TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL

1:00pm Fun Fest:
Gyroscope, Rock Climbing Wall
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE

1:00 pm Train Ride
(rides throughout the day until 6 pm)
IN FRONT OF CRAFT PAVILION

1:00 pm Ron Anderson Face Painting
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION

1:00 pm David Talley, Magician and Balloon Artist
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION

1:00 pm Buttons the Clown
(Throughout the day until 5 pm)
ROAMING

1:00 pm-5:30 pm Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi
(Choctaw Ways Path)
Hands on Activities:
Beading
Miniature Drum making
Puppet Storytelling
Pottery Making

Rabbit Stick Throw
BEHIND DANCE GROUND
1:00 pm-1:45 pm Choctaw Social Dancing
Kabotcha Boli Social Dancers,
Eleanor Chickaway, Manager
DANCE GROUND
1:45 pm-2:00 pm Blow Gun
Demonstration/Competition
DANCE GROUND
3:00 pm Midway Opens
MIDWAY
2:00 pm-2:45 pm Choctaw Social Dancing
Tri-Community Social Dancers,
Melissa Isaac, Manager
DANCE GROUND
2:45 pm-3:00 pm Blow Gun
Demonstration/Competition
DANCE GROUND
3:00 pm-4:00 pm Derrick Davis, Hoop Dancer
DANCE GROUND
4:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Pushmataha Division, Boys ages 10-13
Winner Game # 3 vs Winner Game #4
FOOTBALL FIELD
5:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Tulli Okchi Ishko Division, Boys 14-17
Winner Game #2 vs Pearl River
FOOTBALL FIELD
5:30 pm Downstairs Facility
Informational Booths Close
6:00 pm **Evening Ceremonies:**
Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and Special Guests
-Drummer
-Presentation of the Colors
-National Anthem
-Invocation
-Introduction of the 2010 Choctaw Indian Princess
-Introduction of Special Guests
-Choctaw Social Dancing
Chahta Alla Youth Council Dancers,
Rebecca Henry, Manager
AMPHITHEATER
7:00 pm Shane Yellowbird in Concert
AMPHITHEATHER
8:30 pm Tracey Lawrence in Concert
AMPHITHEATER
10:00 pm Choctaw Stickball Playoffs:
Game #11
Winner Game #8 vs Winner Game #9
FOOTBALL FIELD
11:00 pm Choctaw Museum of the
Southern Indian closes
11:00 pm Exhibit Halls Close
2:00 am Midway closes
3:00 am Last Shuttle Bus Runs

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2010

9:00 am Gates open
9:00 am Choctaw Museum of the
Southern Indian Opens
9:00 am All Exhibit Halls Open
9:00 am Buttons the Clown
(Throughout the day until 5 pm)
ROAMING
9:00 am Ron Anderson Face Painting
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION
9:00 am David Talley, Magician and
Balloon Artist
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION
10:00 am-5:30 pm Historical Movies
TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BEGIN:
9:30 am-5:30 pm Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi
(Choctaw Ways Path)
Hands on Activities:
Beading
Miniature Drum making
Puppet Storytelling
Pottery Making
Rabbit Stick Throw
BEHIND DANCE GROUND
10:00 am-10:45 am Choctaw Social Dancing
Choctaw Tribal Social Dancers,
Jane Ben, Manager
DANCE GROUND
10:45 am-11:00 am Introduction of 2010
Choctaw Indian Princess
DANCE GROUND
11:00 am Fun Fest:
Rock Climbing Wall, Gyroscope
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE
11:00 am Train Ride
(rides throughout the day until 6 pm)
IN FRONT OF CRAFT PAVILION
11:00 am-11:45 am Choctaw Social Dancing
Conehatta Social Dancers,
Melanie Stephens, Manager
DANCE GROUND
12:00 pm-1:00 pm Derrick Davis, Hoop Dancer
DANCE GROUND
1:00 pm-5:30 pm Historical Movies
TRIBAL COUNCIL HALL
1:00 pm Fun Fest:
Rock Climbing Wall, Gyroscope
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE
1:00 pm Train Ride
(rides throughout the day until 6 pm)
IN FRONT OF CRAFT PAVILION
1:00 pm Buttons the Clown
(Throughout the day until 5 pm)
ROAMING
1: 00 pm David Talley, Magician
and Balloon Artist
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION
1:00 pm Ron Anderson Face Painting
(Throughout the day until 6 pm)
ADJACENT TO CRAFT PAVILION
1:00 pm-5:30 pm Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi
(Choctaw Ways Path)
Hands on Activities:
Beading
Miniature Drum making
Puppet Storytelling
Pottery Making
Rabbit Stick Throw
BEHIND DANCE GROUND
1:00 pm-1:45 pm Choctaw Social Dancing
Hilhachi Alheha Social Dancers,
Diane Ben, Manager
DANCE GROUND
1:45 pm-2:00 pm Blow Gun
Demonstration/Competition
DANCE GROUND
2:00 pm Midway Opens
MIDWAY
2:00 pm-2:45 pm Choctaw Social Dancing
Pearl River Social Dancers,
Glenda Willis, Manager
DANCE GROUND
2:45 pm-3:00 pm Derrick Davis, Hoop Dancer
DANCE GROUND
3:00 pm-3:45 pm Choctaw Social Dancing
Oka Homma Social Dancers,
Ashley Dixon/Rose York, Managers
DANCE GROUND
3:45 pm- 4:00 pm Puppet/Animal Show
DANCE GROUND
4:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Pushmataha Division, Boys ages 10-13
Championship Game
FOOTBALL FIELD
5:00 pm Junior Stickball:
Tulli Okchi Ishko Division, Boys 14-17
Championship Game
FOOTBALL FIELD
5:30 pm Downstairs Facility
Informational Booths Close
6:00 pm **Evening Ceremonies**:
Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and Special Guests
-Drummer
-Presentation of the Colors
-National Anthem
-Invocation
-Introduction of the 2010 Choctaw Indian Princess
-Introduction of Special Guests
-Choctaw Social Dancing:
Chahta Hilha Social Dancers,
Dorothy Wilson, Manager
AMPHITHEATER
7:00 pm The Lost Trailers in Concert
AMPHITHEATER
8:30 pm Sara Evans in Concert
AMPHITHEATER
10:00 pm Choctaw Stickball World Series:
Championship
Winner of Game #10 vs Winner of Game #11
FOOTBALL FIELD
11:00 pm Choctaw Museum of the
Southern Indian closes
11:00 pm Exhibit Halls Close
2:00 am Midway Closes
2:00 am The 2010 Choctaw Indian Fair
officially closes.

Nightly entertainment at 61st Choctaw Indian Fair

Audiences are in for a treat this year at the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair in beautiful Choctaw, Miss.

"Choctaw Journey," a captivating new drama play chronicling the rich history of the Choctaw people, will be performed on the amphitheater stage on Thursday, July 15 at 7 p.m. Music legends The Four Tops hit the stage at 8:30 p.m.

Native American recording artist Shane Yellowbird takes center stage at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 16. He is followed at 8:30 p.m. by country music superstar Tracy Lawrence.

On Saturday, July 17 at 7 p.m., The Lost Trailers will take the stage. Closing out the Fair's nightly entertainment at 8:30 p.m. will be country music star Sara Evans.

THE FOUR TOPS

The Four Tops have been marveling audiences with their infectious blend of pure vocal power and sweet harmonies since 1954. High school friends from Detroit's North End, Levi Stubbs, Renaldo "Obie" Benson, Abdul "Duke" Fakir and Lawrence Payton started playing parties as the Four Aims. After catching the ear and eye of singer Billy Eckstine, they changed their name to The Four Tops, so as not to be confused with the Ames Brothers.

After a brief stint with Chess Records in the late 50's and Columbia Records in the early 60's the group was introduced to Berry Gordy, who signed them to his new label, Motown Records. At Motown the group was teamed with the songwriting powerhouse of Holland, Dozier and Holland. The rest is history.

Hit after hit followed, starting in 1964 with "Baby I Need Your Loving", and continuing with songs like, "Reach Out, I'll Be There", "Standing In The Shadows of Love", "Bernadette", and "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch)". During the British invasion of the U.S., the Four Tops became a sensation in England.

In 1972, after Motown moved to Los Angeles, The Four Tops signed with ABC/Dunhill Records. The group hits kept on with "Ain't No Woman (Like The One I Got)" and "Keeper Of The Castle" and others. As records sales starting slowing, the group returned to their strength, live performances.

In the early 80's, The Four Tops signed with Neil Bogart and Casablanca Records. Two albums on the label produced the hits, "When She Was My Girl", "Tonight I'm Gonna Love You All Over", and "I Believe In You and Me".

In 1985, the group stopped the show at the heavily rock filled Live Aid. Critics around the world hailed their set as a highlight of the marathon benefit concert. But benefits were not foreign to The Four Tops. To this day, they have raised money all over the globe with their charity work, never forgetting where they came from. Playing almost 200 dates a year, and starting off the 90's with an inductee to the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame.

Solo work has never been something that The Four Tops set their sights on, but on occasion they have lent their talents to others. Lawrence and Duke served as producers on other music projects, Obie co-wrote "What's Going On?" with Marvin Gaye and Levi was the voice of the man-eating plant, Audrey II in the movie, "Little Shop of Horrors". Through it all, the group stayed together for 43 years, something that is unmatched by any other group ever.

In June of 1997, Lawrence Payton died of liver cancer. The group decided to continue on and worked for almost two years with just the three remaining members, dedicating every show to the memory of Payton.

In 1999, the group marked their 45th anniversary, and also the first member change. Theo Peoples, a golden voice, multitalented young man from St. Louis and Ronnie Mcneir joined Obie and Duke onstage for the first time. The results has been magical and shows that the group is ready to continue playing concerts, corporate events and even using 80 symphonies to spread their magic worldwide.

SHANE YELLOWBIRD

Shane Yellowbird returns to the forefront of the Canadian country music scene with his highly anticipated sophomore album, It's About Time. Two full years in the making, and a true labor of love, It's About Time promises an exciting new collection of tunes, both true to the caliber of music that Yellowbird fans have come to appreciate, and yet explorative of a new side of this talented artist not yet seen.

"It's About Time is more about me than my first record, if that makes sense," says Yellowbird. "Going into the studio, I had a real vision of what I wanted this album to be. I've made sure to record songs that really spoke to me. Each lyric and melody says something to me or about me. I'll leave that up to the listener to decide which is which!"

The album release on November 17, 2009 - on On Ramp Records / EMI Music Canada - coincided with Yellowbird's first appearance on the hallowed stage of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

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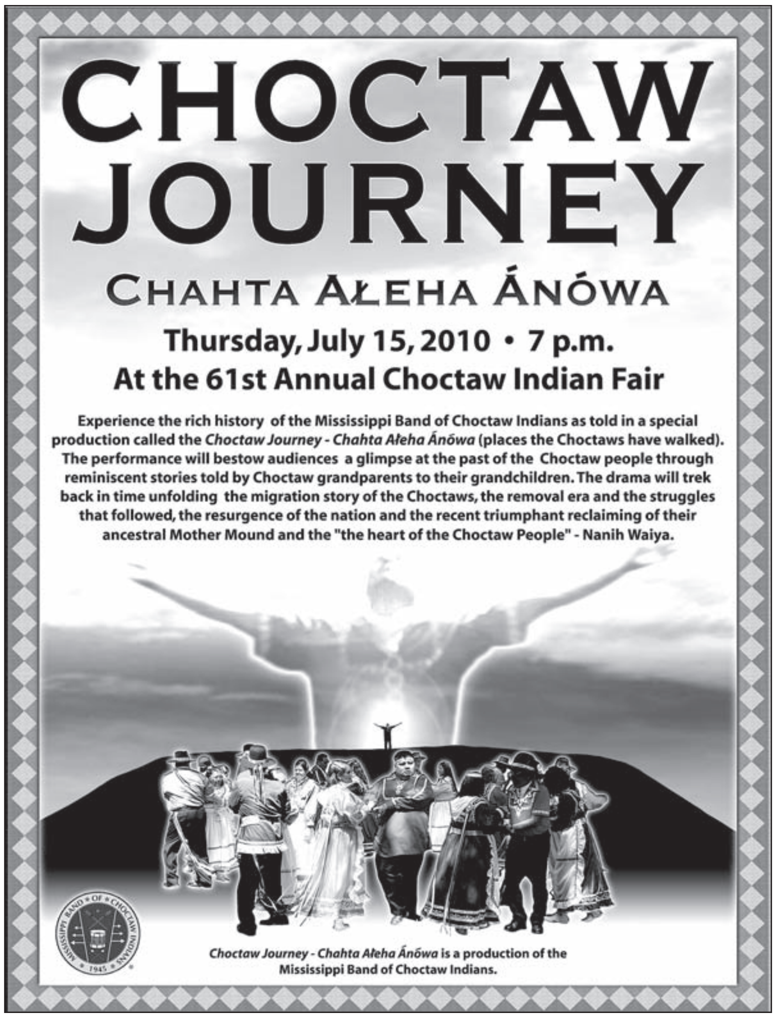
THE FOUR TOPS



CHOCTAW JOURNEY

CHAHTA AŁEHA ÁNÓWA

Thursday, July 15, 2010 • 7 p.m.

At the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair

Experience the rich history of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as told in a special production called the *Choctaw Journey - Chahta Ałeha Ánówa* (places the Choctaws have walked). The performance will bestow audiences a glimpse at the past of the Choctaw people through reminiscent stories told by Choctaw grandparents to their grandchildren. The drama will trek back in time unfolding the migration story of the Choctaws, the removal era and the struggles that followed, the resurgence of the nation and the recent triumphant reclaiming of their ancestral Mother Mound and the "the heart of the Choctaw People" - Nanih Waiya.

Choctaw Journey - Chahta Ałeha Ánówa is a production of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

SHANE YELLOWBIRD

The performance also marked Yellowbird's entrance to the U.S. market, with plans to release his music and videos in America in 2010.

"I look forward to sharing my music with listeners south of the Canadian border," commented Yellowbird. "I have lots of fans there and it's time I get out and see them."

Yellowbird burst onto the country music scene in 2006 with the release of his debut album Life Is Calling My Name. Garnering four Top-10 radio singles and videos, the CD led Yellowbird to countless awards and accolades, including the coveted CCMA award for "Rising Star of the Year," the "Best Country Recording" award at the Native American Music Awards (for North America), and the "Aboriginal Entertainer of the Year" award at the Aboriginal People's Choice Awards (for North America).

Growing up in Hobbema, Alberta, Yellowbird - who is Cree - was always a typical cowboy. His parents participated in the rodeo circuit and Shane was roping and riding from a very early age. Faced with a severe stuttering problem, a speech therapist suggested to Shane that he sing his sentences to help him speak clearly. The technique proved successful - so successful, in fact, that Yellowbird began entering and winning several singing contests. The life of this cowboy quickly turned away from roping and riding and moved toward that of another dream, being a successful country music artist.

"I've been really fortunate the past couple of years," says Yellowbird. "My fans have embraced me and my music in a way I never expected. When I think about what I've overcome to make it to where I am right now (referring to his speech impediment), it blows me away. I couldn't have done it without the support of the people who are there, watching me on stage every night."

Yellowbird hopes to inspire others to pursue their dreams. Wherever you come from, whatever obstacles you face, your dreams can come true - something Yellowbird knows firsthand. Speaking and mentoring troubled youth, visiting young prisoners, and organizing concerts to benefit those in need in his hometown, Shane knows the true importance of giving back.

"I can't wait for fans to hear this new music," says Shane. "If they love it just a fraction of what I do, it's going to be amazing."

TRACY LAWRENCE

With the release of FOR THE LOVE, Tracy Lawrence adds a rich new chapter to one of modern country's most impressive legacies. Know for classics like "Sticks and Stones," "Alibis", "Texas Tornado," "Time Marches On," "Lessons Learned," and "Paint Me A Birmingham" from a catalog that has produced sixteen No. 1's and at least 20 top 10 hits, Tracy is recognized as on of his generation's most important artists.

FOR THE LOVE takes him another big step forward. Following in the wake of his Greatest Hits album, it serves as potent reminder of his vocal prowess and of his ability to write and select songs with an eye both to the telling detail and to universal emotion.

"I feel like this record is a good overview of everything musical and personal about me," he says, "and given the way things are going, a lot of the content is uplifting."

That sentiment reflects the fact that Tracy's life and career have entered new territory. FOR THE LOVE is the first release on Tracy's own Rocky Comfort Records, a venture that gives him a welcome new platform.

"I feel like I'm starting fresh," he says. "I have a lot more freedom to do some of the things I think are important to me and to build something of substance over the next several years. My fans will benefit as well. We don't have the same overhead that major recording companies do, so we can distribute my music in such a way at retail that I still make a living and my fans can purchase my music at the best possible price."

As the first step along that new career path, FOR THE LOVE begins on a base firmly planted in Tracy's love and appreciation for classic country.

"I think this record is a little bit more retro," he says. "There's a lot more traditional country on this record, and some things reflective of my own early success."

The tracks Just Like Her, a classic country shuffle; Just Like That, which showcases Tracy's way with a swing tune: and Rock And A Soft Place, which hearkens to some of Tracy's own musical back pages, once again show that this is a man who know his way around the country landscape.

From there, the Arkansas native puts his stamp on a more cutting edge style of country, with the title cut, "For The Love," a contemporary gem featuring a guest appearance by the multi-platinum Three Doors Down's lead voice Brad Arnold; You Can't Hide Redneck, an energetic country rocker; and As Easy As Our Blessings, a bit of heartfelt spirituality in a state-of-the-art country setting.

The lead off single is Find Out Who Your Friends Are, a song about strength, tenacity and redemption from a man whose own ability to overcome difficulties infuses this with an autobiographical passion that adds further authenticity to the project.

An added highlight is Speed Of Flight, a waltz that represents the first time Tracy has cut a song he wrote without a co-writer. As a man for whom every decision, artistic or business, is one to be taken seriously, Tracy was hesitant at first to include it.

"As an artist," he says, "I'm probably more critical of the songs I write than anybody else's, and for me to put something I wrote myself on this project, it really had to stand up to scrutiny."

This time around, Tracy was able to bring in his own road band to record two of the project's songs, Rock And A Soft Place, and Just Like That, and, in addition to Arnold, two other high-profile peers lent a hand to the project. Tracy's long-time friends, Tim McGraw and Kenny Chesney, took part in a bonus version of Find Out Who Your Friends Are, one that adds another facet to the song's message.

TRACY LAWRENCE

"All three of us hit town about the same time. We ate together, hung out together, bar-hopped together, and even borrowed a couch to crash on from time to time. We reminded friends today. The song is really representative of us."

Tracy's road life included participation in George Strait's tour as well as dates of his own, and included, as always, his continued passion for charity work for the Tracy Lawrence Foundation, raising awareness for Alzheimer's research in his role on the national advisory board, and the newly organized annual Tracy Lawrence Mission Possible Thanksgiving turkey fry for the homeless.

This collection of songs points Tracy in a positive and uplifting new direction.

"I think overall I've just learned to be happy," he says, "and this record helps showcase that."

....see CONCERTS, pg. 36

CONCERTS .... continued from page thirty-five

Tracy sees himself more these days as someone for whom life and career continue to dovetail, and for whom art is increasingly a means of uplift.

"My music is evolving to a place that is more spiritual and reflective of the heart," he says. "I can see the transformation over several albums, and I see it continuing to grow. I'm eager to see where the journey continues to take me."

Although he's focusing more of his time on his family, as daughters Skylar JoAnn and Mary Keagan grow up, Tracy still loves climbing up on that tour bus and taking to the road to entertain country music fans across the U.S.

"This is still fun to me. I love creating new music and performing for my fans on stage as much today as I ever have. My fans are amazingly loyal," he adds. "They've been with me for a long time, many since the release of my very first record. It's a friendship and connection that's difficult to define. They're like my extended family. They've laughed when I've laughed and hurt when I've hurt. As we launch this chapter, I hope they're as enlightened by listening to this new record as I was by selecting and recording these songs especially for them."

THE LOST TRAILERS

Ryder Lee and Stokes Nielson met in a church band as teenagers, and they've been making records together ever since. Their high school friendship begat a country band of five called The Lost Trailers, who have blazed their way through hundreds of honkytonks, joints, roadhouses, night clubs and concert halls, building a firewall of fiercely loyal fans. They are a band that came together naturally, matured creatively, perform explosively and have poured all of that into Holler Back, their new album on BNA Records.

"Anyone who has ever seen us live is going to hear the first 15 seconds of "Holler Back" and say 'There's The Lost Trailers. Those are the guys I saw open for Chesney or open for Sugarland'," says Stokes, the band's songwriter.

"Music is important and has a lasting quality," adds lead vocalist Ryder, aka The Voice. "But music should be fun too, there needs to be a balance. "Holler Back" is a fun song that captures the element of our live show which is really important to us as well."

Ryder and Stokes both gravitated towards music in high school, where they convinced another student, drummer Jeff Potter, to join them in a band named Ryder Stokes. Soon, Stokes' younger brother Andrew came on as their bassist, a position now held by the fifth and last member to join the band, Manny Medina (Andrew moved over to keyboards).

The new band caught a break early, as their demo found its way to Willie Nelson, who invited them to perform on his annual Fourth of July picnic. By the time they got to Austin, they had changed the band's name, thanks to some unfortunate incidents involving successive equipment trailers. The 15,000 fans there that afternoon witnessed the debut of The Lost Trailers, and the response was so enthused that Nelson ended up inviting them to open other dates for him.

"What we learned from that experience was that putting on a great show will build a fan base," remembers Stokes. "If you do it night after night, your fan base will grow. If you earn those fans early on, they will stay fans for life. Even after all these years, Willie puts on a great show every night, and he takes care of his fans, and we strive for that sort of connection with our fans."

The Lost Trailers hit the road, first crammed into an SUV, then a van and ultimately graduating to a bonafide bus, which was the place they called home 300 days a year for five years.

"For five years, we were basically living in America," says Ryder. "That experience was the basis of this record. It was being a group of guys with unique personalities who learn to live as a family, who have been there, done that, and tell that story honestly. We learned a lot about ourselves from constant touring, and we were able to define our sound before we got signed."

The Lost Trailers came to the major label table after SONY/BMG Nashville A&R head Renee Bell introduced them to label chairman Joe Galante, who immediately signed them, seeing in The Lost Trailers that same road-tested talent and passionate drive that Alabama brought to his label 25 years before.

"Alabama has always been one of our biggest role models," says Stokes. "It turned out that the first songs Ryder and I ever performed in front of an audience were Alabama songs. It was such a thrill to be on the same label where they spent their career, and signed by the guy who broke them. It just felt like it was meant to be."

THE LOST TRAILERS

Through 2006, The Lost Trailers maintained their permanent temporary bus residence, headlining clubs like they had always done, and opening dates in massive arenas for established stars like Sugarland, Carrie Underwood, Dierks Bentley and another great teacher, Kenny Chesney.

"What we learned from Kenny was put out great songs, put out songs you believe in, and that your fans believe in," says Stokes. "Deliver to your fans. Give them what they want that's the best of you. All the years of touring, we've learned what we do best. It was time to put that on a record."

The band found the key to realizing that in producer Brett Beavers, who came into the picture with the same goal: capture the energy and excitement of The Lost Trailers' live show and put it on a record. He produced several of the tracks, notably the album opener, "Holler Back," and the second cut, "How 'Bout You Don't". The wrenching ballad that does a complete emotional and musical 180 from the jacked-up title cut, and relies on Ryder's resonate, soulful vocals to convey the desperation of a man about to lose everything, piercing the hearts of listeners who have been on either side of that door.

Ryder and Stokes not only share songwriting credits on several tunes, but also took the production reins in the studio on a couple of cuts, not unlike the way they used to do it before they were signed to a recording contract.

"We took six months off to make this record," says Ryder. "We poured all of that energy that would have gone into performing live, and put it on this record."

SARA EVANS

Strength, versatility and a spunky sense of adventure are qualities more often associated with literary heroines than successful country singers, but then there's nothing typical about Sara Evans. Whether dominating country

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SARA EVANS

radio airwaves with one of her many hit singles or attracting a new legion of fans, Evans' drive, talent and determination have placed her in an elite class of artists who transcend musical genres to become a household name.

Her musical accomplishments are celebrated with the release of "Sara Evans-Greatest Hits." The 14-song collection features 10 of Evans' signature songs as well as four inspired new songs, worthy of taking their place alongside such modern classics as "No Place That Far," "A Real Fine Place to Start," and "Born to Fly."

The greatest hits package marks the first time Evans has worked with acclaimed producer John Shanks (Bon Jovi, Kelly Clarkson, Keith Urban, The Wreckers). That collaboration produced four new tunes, including "As If," the lead single from Evans' hits collection.

"He's just amazing to work with and he was exactly what I needed for this project. I know I'll work with him again - IF he'll have me," Evans says with a smile. "He doesn't do anything like everybody normally does. He has no formula."

For Evans, releasing a greatest hits package is like looking back through a photo album; each song is a snapshot that brings a flood of memories.

"My first No. 1 record came when I was pregnant with Avery," she recalls of "No Place That Far" which hit the top of the charts as she was expecting her son. "I remember that time because it was the most amazing time in my life. I thought things could absolutely not get any better. I was expecting my first child and having my first No. 1 record."

Indeed, Evans was on her way to becoming one of the most successful female artists of her generation - a compelling, heart-in-the-throat heir to Loretta Lynn and Tammy Wynette. She's won numerous accolades, among them the Academy of Country Music's Female Vocalist of the Year and the Country Music Association's Video of the Year for "Born to Fly". She was named 2006 Female Vocalist of the Year in the R&R Reader's Poll and has been celebrated as one of People magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People."

Evans has earned numerous #1 hits, two of which she co-wrote, including "Born to Fly," "No Place That Far," "Suds In The Bucket" and "A Real Fine Place to Start," which spent two weeks at the top of the country charts. Of the five albums Evans has released, her sophomore set, "No Place That Far," has been certified gold; 2001's "Born to Fly" is double-platinum and 2003's "Restless" and 2005's "Real Fine Place" are both platinum.

Such accomplishments have been a dream come true for the Booneville, Missouri native. One of seven children, Evans began singing country music with her family's band when she was five-years-old. By the time she was 16, she landed a gig singing regularly at a club in Columbia, Missouri. Of course, Nashville is Mecca for all aspiring country artists and Evans made her way to Music City determined to realize her dreams. She got her first break when legendary songwriter Harlan Howard heard her amazing voice and tapped her to sing his demos. A deal with RCA Records followed soon after.

Produced by Pete Anderson, her debut disc, "Three Chords and the Truth," earned praise from critics, but it was her second disc, "No Place That Far," that brought Evans the commercial success to match the critical acclaim. Her next album, "Born to Fly" spawned four hit singles, which are included on "Greatest Hits" - "I Could Not Ask for More," "Saints and Angels," "I Keep Looking," and the title track.

Always looking to stretch herself artistically, Evans has continued to develop her gift as a songwriter. Her fourth album, "Restless," spawned the hit "Perfect," which Evans penned with Tom Shapiro and Tony Martin. The album also featured one of Evans' signature hits, the high-spirited "Suds in the Bucket." She followed "Restless" with "Real Fine Place," which served up four hits singles - "Cheatin'," "You'll Always Be My Baby," "Coalmine," and the title track, which spent two weeks at No. 1.

Writing and recording four new songs for the greatest hits package - songs strong enough to fit comfortably alongside her already impressive body of work - was a challenging task, but Evans is pleased with the outcome.

"I could only choose four songs," Evans says of rounding out the collection with new tunes, "but they are exactly the songs that this project needed."

"As If" is a buoyant exploration of budding romance, written by Evans, Shanks and Hillary Lindsey.

"We wrote 'As If' on the very first day," Evans says of working with Shanks, whom she met at the 2006 ACM Awards, following her female vocalist win. Her collaboration with the award-winning producer proved very fruitful. She and Shanks co-wrote with Aimee Mayo on two new tunes that made it onto Greatest Hits - "Love You With All My Heart" and "Pray for You." Evans, Shanks, Lindsey, and Evans' brother Matt penned "Some Things Never Change."

"Love You With All My Heart" is a sexy number that finds Evans tapping into her sultry side.

"This song is just about being in a new relationship. This song is all about attraction, really nothing else," says Evans. "We wrote the song when Aimee was huge pregnant and it's funny because when I was huge pregnant, she and I wrote another passionate song called 'Secrets That We Keep'."

On the other end of the spectrum, there's "Pray for You," a poignant ballad about the comforts of family and faith.

"That song was very inspired," Evans says. "John and Aimee and I were just sitting there and it just sort of flowed out. It was such a blessing to have that song come out. It says I've got babies of my own and I'm the one that they are counting on to be here through every little tear and I'll do the best I can. It talks about calling your mom. I think that's what all girls do, I sure do. So that song is very, very special to me."

Evans says "Some Things Never Change" was her brother Matt's idea, and they brought it to a writing session with Shanks and Lindsey to flesh it out. The result is an engaging number that celebrates the enduring joys of family and love.

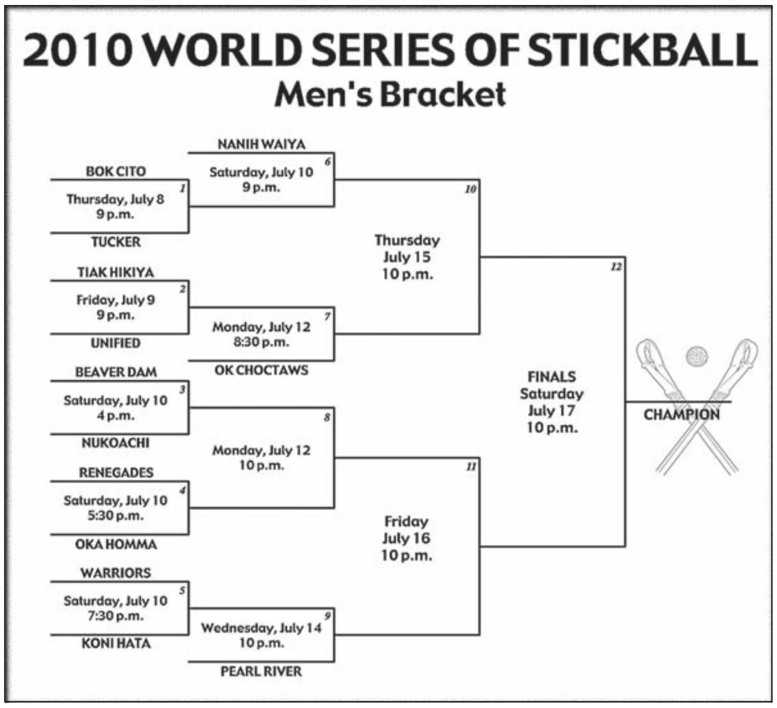
"The main feel of that song is love," says Evans. The lyrics paint the picture of a family and the daily routines that define every day life.

It's that ability to write songs that connect with the heart of her audience that has made Evans such a successful artist, and it's her willingness to take risks and embrace a challenge that has widened her following.

Releasing a Greatest Hits package generally signals the close of one chapter in an artist's career and the beginning of a new one. It is often a time for introspection and taking a hard look at the factors that contributed to those hits. Evans humbly credits her success to "luck, the kindness of country radio, and a good record label."

Obviously, there's been so much more involved. Sara Evans is a vibrant, talented woman with a distinctive voice and an innate ability to relate to her audience. She's a songwriter, a mother, and a master at multi-tasking, but above all, she's real. It's that honesty and integrity that resonate throughout her music.

"I'm just really grateful for what I have. I want my life to mean something and I want to make music that matters."



Fans ready for 2010 World Series of Stickball

Action in a stickball game can be fast paced and physical.

In the searing heat and humidity of summer in Choctaw, Miss., the distant sound of a Choctaw drum beat can be heard ushering along side fierce battle cries echoing their way to Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School. Visitors to the Choctaw Indian Fair unfamiliar with Choctaw stickball may think they are taken back in time as they prepare to witness the oldest field sport in America.

The annual Choctaw Indian

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2010 WORLD SERIES ADULT STICKBALL RULES

It is the responsibility of the coach to comply with the rules, control the players & exhibit sportsmanship.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

1. Each team must have 30 players in order to start the game.
2. If a team has less than 30 players on the field at the start of the game, that team shall forfeit the game.
3. During the game, if a team has less than 30 eligible players on the field due to an injury or ejection, the game may continue unless the other team leads by 10 points or more after the third quarter.
4. Each team must submit in a roster of a minimum 40 players in order for their team to be entered into the bracket of the tournament.

GOAL:

1. The scoring post will measure 12' high & 4" square with 1/2" thick boards.
2. Scoring is permitted on all 4 sides & the top of the post.

ENTRANCE:

1. Teams are to line up at the designated entrance gate to the field 15 minutes prior to game time. Captains are to meet with officials at this time.
2. The drummer will lead the team around the goal & then to the center for the opening toss-up.
3. Only the starting 30 players should be on the field for "toss-up". All substitutes are to go directly to their respective sidelines.
4. The top team on the bracket as determined by draw shall be designated as the home team. The home team shall initially shoot at the north goal & occupy the bench on the west sideline.

TIME:

1. Regulation play will be divided into four 15 minutes quarters for the adult men's division & 10 minutes for the women's division & the men's 35 & over division.
2. There will be a five minute half-time & three minute break between the other quarters.
3. The clock will keep running except when the head official calls time-out for any reason.
4. The head official may stop the clock if he determines that a team that is tied or leading is deliberately shooting the ball out of bounds only after the head coach of that team has been issued a warning.
5. The sound of the scoreboard horn shall signify the end of a quarter.

TOSS-UPS:

START: At the signal from the head official, the players will go to their appropriate positions & the ball will be tossed up to start play.

IN-PLAY: During the game, toss-ups will occur after each dead ball. Play will be considered "dead" when the ball goes out-of-bounds, when it is touched by hand, when there is more than one ball on the playing field, or when it is ruled such for any other reason by the officials.

SCORING:

1. For a score to be registered a ball may hit any side of the goal after being shot by an offensive player or the player may touch the goal with the ball in the cup of the stick. No score will be given when the ball ricochets off the grounds or off the referee.
2. A goal will be counted upon the signal of the head official only.

INFRACTIONS:

A. MINOR INFRACTIONS – INDIVIDUAL

1. Hitting below the knees.
2. Early or late hit.

Definition of early hit - contact made before the ball is in the cup of the stick.

Definition of late hit - contact made after the ball is released from the cup.

3. Clothesline hit - *(Ejected from the game - refer to "Exceptions" under Penalties for Minor Infractions).*
4. Intentionally hitting a player, including the goal tender, without the ball (player fakes at his own risk). A goal tender can be pushed only within a 5 yard radius of the goal.
5. Inappropriate use of sticks such as swinging sticks on "toss-ups". - *(Ejected from the game - refer to "Exceptions" under Penalties for Minor Infractions).*
6. Throwing a player down to the ground ("body slam") - *(Ejected from the game - refer to "Exceptions" under Penalties for Minor Infractions).*
7. Intentionally pulling hair.
8. Player intentionally touches the ball.
9. Player going into the huddle without sticks.
10. Taunting (i.e. use of profanity, provoking, unsportsmanlike gesture towards opponent on the playing field or sidelines).
11. Intentionally blindside hit while blocking a player who does not have possession of the ball.
12. Throwing the ball after the whistle has been blown (a player who commits this infraction will also be imposed with a $25 fine, payable before the next game - NO EXCEPTIONS).
13. Other unsportsmanlike conduct.

PENALTIES FOR MINOR INFRACTIONS

1ST Infraction - Ejection of players for the remainder of the quarter. *(Note: If the infraction occurs with three minutes or less left in the quarter, the ejected player must sit out the entire next quarter of that game. Overtime is an extension of the 4th quarter.)*

2nd Infraction - Ejection of player from the game.

(Exceptions - A player who commits a clothesline hit (#3) or who deliberately throws an opponent to the ground (#6) will be ejected from the game.)

Any official on the field may call a minor infraction.

B. MAJOR INFRACTIONS - INDIVIDUAL

1. Intentionally hitting, throwing, or swinging at another player with a stick on the field or on the side line.
2. Fighting.
3. Intimidation of officials.
4. Deliberately throwing elbow or delivering forearm above the shoulder

PENALTY FOR MAJOR INFRACTIONS

1. Ejection of player from the tournament. The ejected player will not be allowed in the bench area for all remaining games. NO EXCEPTIONS!
2. The assessment of a major infraction must have the concurrence of the head official.
3. The head coach of a player ejected for the tournament shall be informed that such player is ruled ineligible for all ensuing games.
4. The ejected player is also ineligible to play on any other team scheduled to participate in the tournament in any division. If the ejected player plays in a game for another team in any division, the team using that player shall forfeit the game for using an ineligible player.
5. Intentionally striking an official will result in ejection of the player from the tournament. Also, based on a written report filed by the head official, which must be turned in to the commissioner within 30 to 45 days after the game, further disciplinary action may be imposed. This disciplinary action may include the extension of a disqualification into the next tournament plus a $100 fine. A hearing, taking place after the conclusion of the tournament, must be conducted before such an extension may be

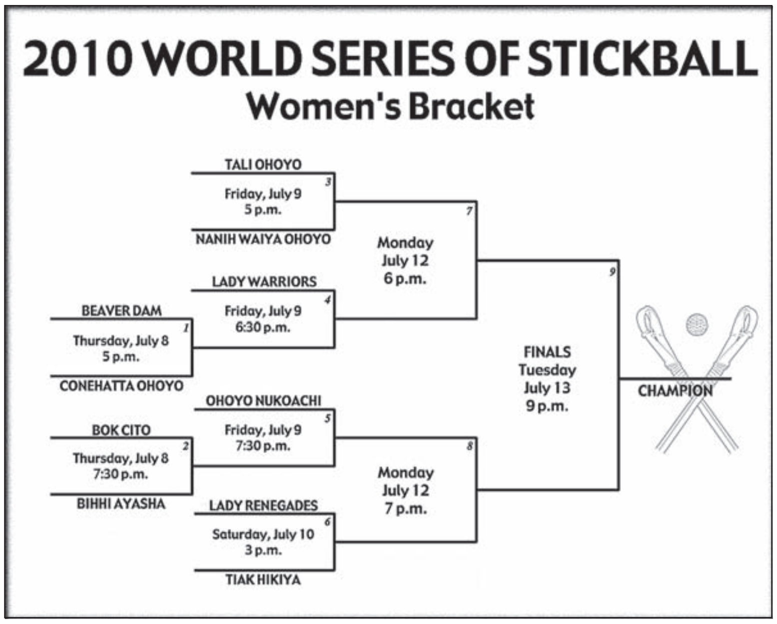
....continued next page

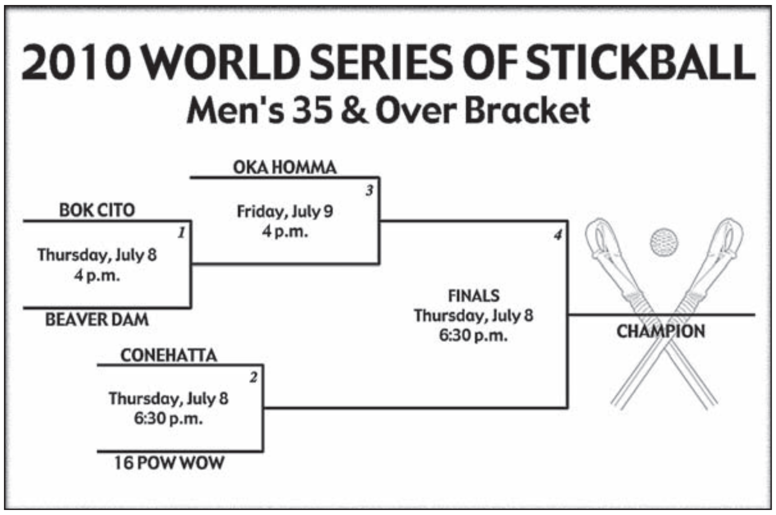
Fair is a four-day celebration of the heritage of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held on the Pearl River Reservation in Choctaw, Miss., on the second week of July. The event showcases the tribe's traditional cultural arts, crafts, dances, food, basket weaving, Choctaw artisans, as well as providing family entertainment for all with nightly concerts and a carnival located on the fairgrounds.

But any seasoned fairgoer can tell you, the crowd jewel of the Choctaw Fair and of the Choctaw people is the game of stickball. Times and places have changed a lot for the Choctaw people, but little has changed for the game of stickball.

The game is highly regarded and remains a beloved sport among the Choctaws,

see STICKBALL, pg. 40





imposed.

6. If the head official files a written report with the coordinator, within 30 to 45 days after the game, in which he describes a major infraction as severe, the disqualification may be extended into the next tournament. A fine of $100 will also be imposed. A hearing, taking place after the conclusion of the tournament, must be conducted before such an extension is imposed.

C. TOO MANY PLAYERS - TEAM

Immediately following the scoring of a goal, the coach of the team scored upon may protest to the head official that the scoring team had more than 30 players on the field at the time of the goal & ask for a line-up. If the protest was made before the toss-up at center field, the head official shall then call for a line-up in the center of the field. If not made in a timely manner, any protest will be disallowed.

If the head official determines that the protesting team had no more than 30 players on the field & the scoring team had more than 30 players on the field, the goal will be disallowed.

D. THE DECISION OF THE HEAD OFFICIAL ARE FINAL

SUBSTITUTIONS:

Start: At the start of the game, all substitutes will remain behind the designated line on the sidelines. It is the responsibility of the head coach to ensure that the correct number of players are on the field at all times.

BLOOD RULE:

If, or when, an official observes a player bleeding, or has an open wound, or has en excessive amount of blood on his uniform, the officials will instruction the player to leave the game. The player involved is not to return until the bleeding is stopped, an open wound is covered, or an excessively bloody uniform is changed. A player with a severe wound to the head will not be able to return at any time during that game if the head official is so advised by one of the authorized medical personnel stationed at the field. *(Each team will have medical personnel on their sidelines).*

NEW NUMBER:

If at any time during a game, a player changes into a shirt with a new number in order to comply with the Blood Rule or for any other reason, such player must report the new number to the head official or subject both he & his head coach to ejection for the remainder of the game.

TIE:

In the case of a tie at the end of regulation play, the teams will enter a "sudden death" playoff. In the "sudden death" playoff, the team who scores first is declared the winner.

MERCY RULE:

If, after the completion of the third quarter, one team attains a lead of 10 points or more, the game will end & the leading team will be declared the winner.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The Stickball Coordinator shall establish a deadline for the submission of rosters. A player may only be on the approved roster for one team.

2. All players under the age of 19 must have attained the age of 18 by July 01, 2010. This information, plus a copy of his birth certificate, or other suitable documentation such as a driver's license, CDIB or Tribal identification card, should be submitted with the team roster. High school students aged 18 who are still eligible to play varsity sports will be eligible to play adult stickball.

3. All players participating in the men's 35 & over division must have attained the age of 35 by July 01, 2010. If challenged by the head official, a player must provide suitable documentation as listed above.

4. Before each game, the officials & coaches will check for players under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Players determined to be in such condition prior to or during a game will not be eligible to participate any further in that game & must leave the playing field immediately. This rule will be strictly enforced.

5. It is the responsibility of the coach that only eligible individuals play. Therefore, if an eligible player participates for a winning team & a timely protest is made, the winning team will forfeit that game & the losing team will advance.

6. A head coach wishing to file a protest concerning the eligibility of a player must orally notify the head official before the official leaves the playing field at the conclusion of the game in question. A written copy of the protest & a $100 deposit shall be delivered to the head official within thirty (30) minutes after the game. If the protest is upheld, the $100 will be returned. If the protest is denied, the $100 will be forfeited.

7. It is not recommended that pregnant players participate in the tournament. Head officials have the discretion to disqualify a pregnant player from participating in the tournament.

OFFICIALS:

Before each game, the head official will check for officials under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Officials determined to be in such condition will not be allowed to participate for the remainder of the tournament.

EQUIPMENT:

-No duplicate numbers, roman numerals, or half numbers, or stickball jerseys from previous years, etc.

-Cleats, spiked shoes or steel-toed shoes are not allowed.

-Sticks must not be more than 36" in length.

-Mouthpieces are recommended for all players.

JUDGEMENT CALLS

Any judgment call of an official such as the issuance of a penalty for an infraction or a ruling that a goal has or has not been scored is not subject to protest. The ruling of the head official is final.

Video replay will not be used during a game.

FORFEIT:

If a team loses by forfeit, the coaches, players & drummers for that team are ineligible to receive any payment for participation in the forfeited game. Also, any individual whose name appears on the approved roster of a team that forfeits will be ineligible to play on another team for the remainder of the tournament.

If a team forfeits for two (2) consecutive years, the team will not be allowed to participate for one (1) year. Specifically, the team name not used & the head coaches may not serve as head coaches for this one year period. Team players are free to play on other teams. Also, the head coaches may be required to reimburse MBCI for any costs incurred due to the forfeiture

FIREWORKS:

To ensure the safety of spectators & players at a public event, the discharging of fireworks prior to, during or after the game is prohibited. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in the offender being subject to criminal or civil penalties.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ROSTER IS MAY 24, 2010, ONLY EXCEPTION WILL BE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH DOCUMENTATION.

LIABILITY:

Players participate in the tournament at their own risk. The MBCI is not responsible for any injuries that may occur.

The Tribe, its associated agencies & enterprises, & their agents, officers, directors, & employees are immune from all liability for any loss or damage, & any claim that could arise on account of injury to you or your property or resulting death whether caused by the negligence of the Tribe or otherwise resulting from your voluntary participation in the tournament as a player, official or coach. Nothing contained in these stickball rules shall be construed to provide recourse to Government Services Division assets or to any gaming assets currently owned or hereafter acquired, including without limitation those of the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, all such recourse being hereby expressly disclaimed.

2010 WORLD SERIES OF STICKBALL
Men's 40 & Over Championship
NORTH vs SOUTH
Tuesday, July 9 • 6 p.m.

STICKBALL .... continued from page thirty-nine

as well as returning fair guests and first time visitors. During the Choctaw Indian Fair, the World Series of Stickball tournament - with various youth and adult divisions - is held during the week leading up to the fair and concludes with the crowning of championship teams on the final night.

During last year's tournament, many witnessed the passionate intensity and fierce action packed in the games leading up the finals as we were reminded why stickball is often regarded the "Little Brother of War."

In last year's World Series of Stickball, spectators saw defending men's champion Beaver Dam capture their second consecutive championship and 10th overall with a 3-2 victory over Pearl River.

In the women's division, the Lady Warriors defeated Tali Ohoyo 1-0. In the 35 & Over Men's Division, Bok Cito defeated Conehatta 2-1. The North All Stars defeating the South All Stars 4-0 in the 40 & Over Men's Division.

In the Pushmataha Division (ages 10-13), Pearl River defeated Unified 4-3. In the Tulli Okchi Ishko Division (ages 14-17), Tucker won their first title with a 2-1 overtime win over Bok Cito.

Now as the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair fast approaches - scheduled for July 14-17 - it promises to yet again bring another action packed series of stickball.

In the men's division, there are 12 entries to this year's tournament. Beaver Dam stands as king of the mountain and look to defend their title in hopes of attaining an elusive three-peat. But in an ever competitive tournament, there are 11 teams that would love nothing more to see the current champs dethroned.

One of those teams, the Oklahoma Choctaws, will be making their debut in this year's World Series as stickball teams and fans greatly anticipate their appearance.

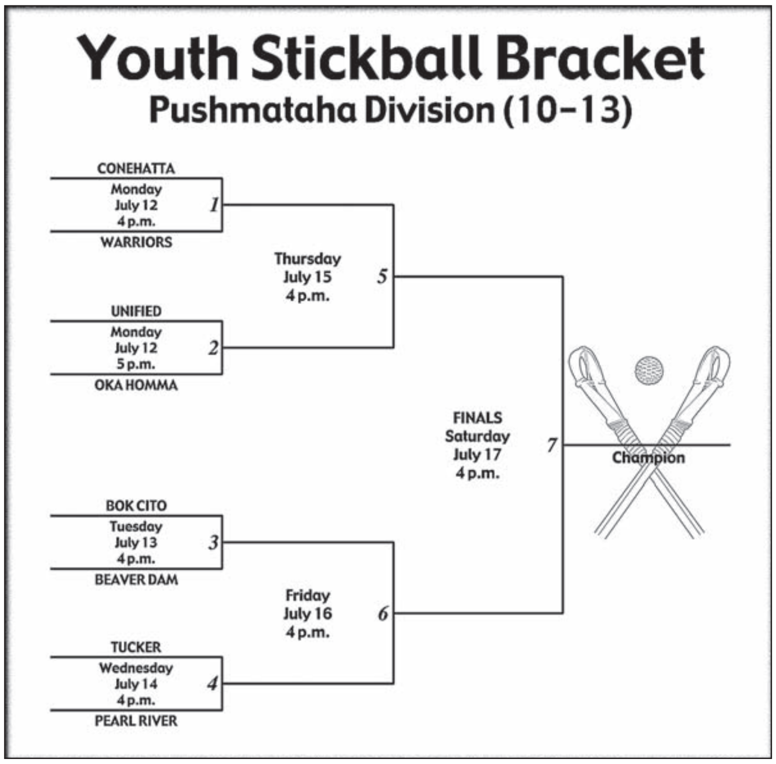
The Oklahoma Choctaw team is scheduled to take the field on Monday, July 12, against the winner of the Tiak Hikha/Unified contest on Friday, July 9.

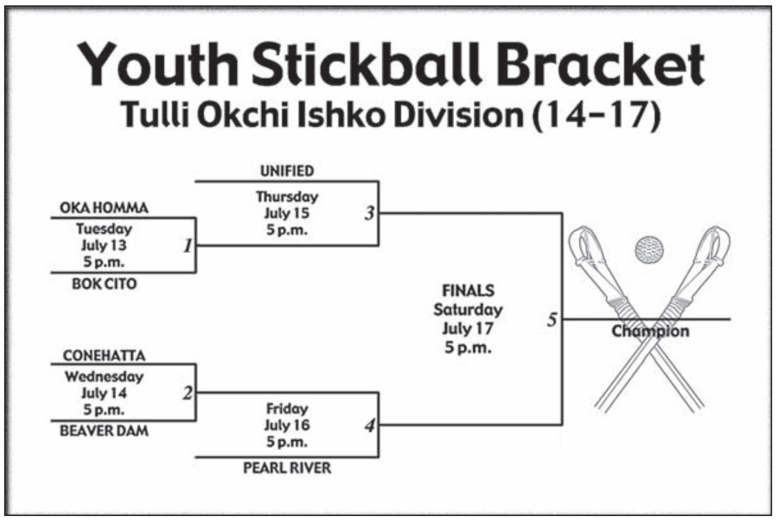
The team will be coached by Mississippi Choctaw members Josh Willis and Eric Jefferson. In addition, they will have roughly 10 Mississippi Choctaws to fill the 50 player team roster.

Willis explained that many players on his team are no strangers to the style of play, having participated in the Choctaw World Series and the Oklahoma Choctaw's Labor Day Festival exhibition game.

The interest of submitting a team has long been desired by many Oklahoma Choctaws in previous years. Several groups have made their journeys to the fair in recent years, but often fell short of compiling members for a team, according to World Series of Stickball Commissioner Henry Williams.

Williams added that several Oklahoma Choctaws are currently on the rosters of teams that are participating in this year's tournament and expressed his excitement for the new team to the World Series and believes the games should be more interesting.


Youth Stickball Bracket
Pushmataha Division (10-13)
CONEHATTA
Monday July 12 4 p.m.
1
WARRIORS
UNIFIED
Monday July 12 5 p.m.
2
OKA HOMMA
BOK CITO
Tuesday July 13 4 p.m.
3
BEAVER DAM
TUCKER
Wednesday July 14 4 p.m.
4
PEARL RIVER
Thursday July 15 4 p.m.
5
Friday July 16 4 p.m.
6
FINALS Saturday July 17 4 p.m.
7
Champion


Youth Stickball Bracket
Tulli Okchi Ishko Division (14-17)
OKA HOMMA
Tuesday July 13 5 p.m.
1
BOK CITO
CONEHATTA
Wednesday July 14 5 p.m.
2
BEAVER DAM
UNIFIED
Thursday July 15 5 p.m.
3
Friday July 16 5 p.m.
4
PEARL RIVER
FINALS Saturday July 17 5 p.m.
5
Champion

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CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 8 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 AUGUST 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Pictured from left are 2nd Alternate Martika Deidra Bell, 2010-2011 Choctaw Indian Princess Mahlih Rene Vaughn, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, 1st Alternate Mahli Jaynae Bell, & Miss Congeniality & Miss Photogenic Mercedes Star Cotton.

Vaughn crowned 2010-2011 Choctaw Indian Princess

Miss Mahlih Rene Vaughn, 18 year-old daughter of Harley and Rae Nell Vaughn of the Pearl River Community, was crowned the 2010-2011 Choctaw Indian Princess at the annual princess pageant held during the opening night of the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on Wednesday, July 14, 2010.

Vaughn was sponsored by the Pearl River Community Development Club.

Vaughn was named the winner of the talent show held on Monday, July 12.

The title of Choctaw Indian Princess is a very prestigious title that holds many responsibilities. The princess serves as an ambassador for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. During her reign, she will travel around the country, many times with Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, to promote awareness of the Tribe.

The pageant and the talent show provide young Choctaw ladies the opportunity to showcase their abilities as an ambassador.

Each contestant had an opportunity to display their presentation and creative skills during the talent show as they sang, played an instrument, or performed a

......see PRINCESS, pg. 9

New Choctaw housing promotes green building, community

CHOCTAW, Miss. - The thirty-two families selected for the new Tiak Chitto Subdivision in the Pearl River Community can look forward to lower utility costs and a community atmosphere once the development is finished. That is because the Choctaw Housing Authority, the project developer, is using green friendly building material and including amenities for outdoor activities.

The ground-breaking ceremony held Friday, July 9 highlighted the construction phase of the development that will incorporate structural insulated panels (SIPs) for the homes along with a walking trail for residents.

"Three years ago, when I campaigned for Chief, my promise to Tribal members was to do everything in my power to increase housing throughout our communities," said Mi̱ko Beasley Denson of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

"New homes, renovated homes, and new subdivisions are a testament that we have done exactly that. I am pleased we were able to leverage

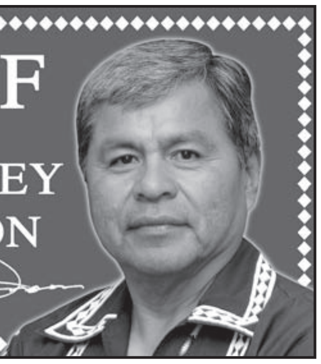
.......see HOUSING, page 5

Pictured from left is new homeowner Leonard Jimmie, Jr., Choctaw Housing Authority Director Eric Willis, Choctaw Housing Authority Board Chairman Eddie Sam, Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, Eastern Woodlands Office of Native American Programs Administrator Kevin Fitzgibbons, Red Water Tribal Council Member Phyliss Anderson, & Tribal Vice-Mi̱ko Harrison Ben as they break ground for the new Tiak Chitto housing subdivision in the Pearl River Community.

BEAVER DAM WINS 3 IN A ROW

Beaver Dam (in the background) won their third consecutive World Series of Stickball men's title with a 2-1 win over Bok Cito on July 17 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw. It was Beaver Dam's 11th title overall. Gabriel Bell of Beaver Dam was named series MVP.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MI̱KO BEASLEY DENSON



CIF 2010: Thank you and congratulations!

The 2010 Choctaw Indian Fair was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's fair the best ever. Thank you again to Famie Willis for representing our Tribe so well as Princess over the last year and congratulations to our new Princess, Mahlih Rene Vaughn as well as Mahli Jaynae Bell who is 1st Alternate, 2nd Alternate Martika Deidra Bell and Miss Congeniality and Miss Photogenic, Mercedes Star Cotton. I was proud of all the contestants.

Congratulations are also in order for Beaver Dam who won their third straight men's division stickball championship. Bok Cito put up a good fight but, in the end, they couldn't stop Beaver Dam. Congratulations as well to the Pushmataha division champions, Koni Hata, Tulli Okchi Ishko champions, Pearl River, men's 40 and over champions, South, men's 35 and over champions, Oka Homma, and women's champions-Bihhi Ayasha.

I was also pleased to witness the birth of a new Choctaw tradition in the production of Chahta Aleha Anowa - the Choctaw Journey. The actors and actresses did a great job and I look forward to seeing the drama develop and educate fair goers on our history for many years to come.

Bogue Homa Casino

By now you have seen the media reports around the casino under construction on our land in the Bogue Homa Community. Many have offered their opinion but few understand the legal concepts and sovereignty. One who does understand is Attorney General Jim Hood, the chief law enforcement officer for the state. The Attorney General, after reviewing the law and the compact we entered into with the state under Governor Kirk Fordice in 1992, said:

"After thorough review, staff has found no viable legal cause of action which would halt the proposed development, either by challenging the validity of the 1992 Gaming Compact between the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, or by otherwise challenging the proposed development itself."

Our Tribe won't be deterred in the pursuit of the revenue we must have to provide basic services including education, health care and police and fire protection to our members. I see the opposition and misrepresentations of our pursuit of economic self-determination for the political posturing it is.

Recently, one of the most successful gaming tribes in the United States was forced to stop distributions to its members because of the economic downturn. I've promised you that I will always aggressively pursue our best interests and that I will do everything I can to continue to prevent cuts in services and make distribution payments without borrowing money. I stand by that promise and the promise I made to put Chahta first.

............continued next page

A toss up starts a stickball game at the Choctaw Indian Fair.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, AUG. 6, AT 12 NOON.

Mi̱ko Denson and Mi̱ko tikchi Lena Denson with the Bogue Chitto Social Dancers after their performance at the Fair.

*Mi̱ko and Lena Denson with the cast of the first production of **Chahta Aleha Anowa**.*

When the national economic downturn started, the first step I took to ensure I could honor my promises was the streamlining of our Tribal government and enterprises. After a comprehensive review, we cut expenses, consolidated redundant functions and eliminated waste wherever we found it. Our operations are now efficient and we are positioned to do very well once the national economy bounces back.

On top of those efforts, we have had to think outside the box and be creative in our approaches to budgeting and income. We were able to find savings by reviewing programs like our contract medical care. In the process, we determined that some of our programs were over capitalized and that the extra money could be put to better use in other places.

But streamlining, conservative budgeting and creativity can only get a business so far in an economic climate like the one we have today. To continue to support our Tribe's growth, pay distributions without borrowing money, prevent cuts in services and avoid reductions to the Tribal work force, we have to take advantage of every opportunity that we can find to generate new income. The casino in Bogue Homa is that kind of opportunity. And in this economy, opportunities like this one are few and far between.

We are a Tribe that rose from humble beginnings and I believe we are on a road to a prosperous future, in part because of the way we have used this "Great Recession" as an opportunity to get our financial house in order. But to realize that prosperous future, we have to honor our traditions and defend our sovereignty.

I was elected on a platform of Chahta First, and, as long as I have the privilege of serving this Tribe, I will continue to uncover and aggressively pursue opportunities like the one in Bogue Homa that further the economic interests of Chahta and ensure continued services and distributions.

Mi̱ko Denson addresses the Tribal Leaders Forum.

PICTURED LEFT
Mi̱ko Denson, right, and former U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell spoke to tribal leaders in Temecula, California about the upcoming mid-term elections and what they will mean for Indian Country.

For more information on the casino in Bogue Homa see page 4.

Pechanga Tribal Leaders Forum

In June, I travelled to Temecula, California, home of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians for the Tribal Leaders Forum. The purpose of the forum was to discuss strategies for strengthening tribal governments. The economy is in a recession, unemployment is in double digits and deficits are growing for cities, states and the nation. We may be entering a period of recovery but it will be a long, slow one. It was past time for tribal leaders to address those issues. I thank Dick Trudell of the American Indian Resources Institute for organizing the gathering.

I spoke to those in attendance about the importance of the mid-term elections and urged participation in our Sovereign Nations Alliance. I am happy to report that we added two new tribes to our organization as a result. I want to welcome the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to the Sovereign Nations Alliance.

Tribal Leaders Legislative Summit on the Carcieri Decision

In July, I traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the Tribal Leaders Legislative Summit on the Carcieri Decision. This gathering of 70 Tribes was organized to urge Congress to address the serious problems caused by the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision *Carcieri v. Salazar*, which changed 70 years of Indian policy and how the federal government takes land into trust so that tribes can rebuild their communities and pursue self-determination.

Mi̱ko Denson spoke to Senators about Indian Country priorities and the effects of the recession. From left is Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington, Mi̱ko Denson, & Senator Mark Begich of Alaska.

While we are not one of the Tribes whose trust applications are directly threatened, I believe that this is a problem for all Tribes and we will stand together to make sure our rights as sovereign nations are protected.

I was one of a handful of Tribal leaders invited by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow to speak to a group of 13 Senators about issues important to Indian Country. Some of the issues addressed were Carcieri, the Indian Health Care Improvement reauthorization Act, Tribal law enforcement issues and education policy in Indian Country.

I focused on economic development and the need to protect the Native American 8(a) program, which allows Tribes like ours, to pursue contracts with the federal government through our subsidiaries AGT, IKBI and Choctaw Ikhana, and provide opportunities for Tribal members.

I pointed out that without the resources that our 8(a) companies and other businesses generate, we would not be able to make improvements in health care, housing, education and all the other issues discussed at the conference. I have consistently fought to protect the 8(a) program and other initiatives where Tribes have proven track records of success from those who would deny Tribes such opportunities, and I wanted to make sure that the Senators understand how important this really is to our efforts to improve the quality of life and standards of living of our people.

Beasley

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

BOGUE HOMA CASINO: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise have undertaken plans to develop a satellite casino with 500-700 slot machines and a snack bar in an approximately 27,000 square foot building, which will look similar to the original Silver Star.

BIG PICTURE: WHY NOW & WHY THERE?

1. Why does the Tribe want to build a third casino when the Golden Moon isn't even open during the week?

The Golden Moon was built based on a study done by Arthur Anderson, the now discredited accounting firm associated with the Enron scandal. Analysis done by firms with experience in gaming suggested building more hotel rooms would have been the more profitable option. When the Golden Moon was built and included gaming, the Tribe ended up with more casino than our market could sustain. Only once since the Golden Moon was built have the two casinos been as profitable as the Silver Star was when it was the only casino. Closing the gaming floor of the Golden Moon down during the week has been a successful strategy. Convention meeting rooms and hotel rooms remain open. Revenues and profits are exceeding those of this time last year during a recession, but we need to continue to look for new revenue.

2. Why does the Tribe want to build the casino in Bogue Homa instead of a larger community?

Innovations Group, a consulting firm with gaming expertise, completed two independent, detailed studies. The recommendation from that firm was to locate the casino in Bogue Homa because of the proximity to the interstate and to be able to take advantage of likely customers from Alabama and the gulf coast.

Discussions about the likely profitability of the casino in Bogue Homa have been going on for many years, including during the previous Administration. Tribal government leaders felt like Bogue Homa was the right location for a new property and independent gaming experts confirmed that belief. If this project wasn't going to make money, the for-profit casinos wouldn't be urging Gov. Barbour and their other allies to try and stop us.

3. What will happen to Tribal services if we don't build this casino?

The tribe will face the inevitable need to lay-off government employees. Much discretionary expense has been reduced significantly over the past two years due to the economic slowdown. Any substantial reduction now would affect tribal member jobs and family income. The other source of government outlay is member distributions, which now cost $11 million each year. Add on top of this, the likelihood that Pearl River Resort will not see any significant increase in income distributable to the tribe in the next few years due to the ongoing national and regional economic recession. The best solution is additional income through geographic reallocation of gaming.

4. Will the revenues from the Bogue Homa casino be shared with the entire Tribe or only the Bogue Homa Community?

The revenues generated will go the Tribe's general fund for support of tribal programs.

5. Does the Tribe really have the money to build this casino?

If you factor in the equipment currently owned by the Resort, over half the cost of the project is being borne by the Tribe and less than half financed through bank debt. The funding for the project (estimated to cost $18 million) is being provided, as follows:

a. Approximately $8.0 million from Pearl River Resort cash flow. The resort accumulates cash income that, due to restrictive loan covenants contained in its current term loan debt, cannot be distributed to the tribe.

b. $10.0 million through debt financing negotiated with the bank in the form of a revolving loan agreement, at what is expected to be a favorable interest rate.

c. Almost all the slot machines will be relocated from the Golden Moon to the new facility.

6. I know the Governor and other non-Tribal elected officials oppose this project. Can they stop the Tribe from building it?

No, the Governor cannot stop us from building this casino, although he has done his best to try. Under the Compact, the Tribe has a federally protected right to develop gaming facilities on property held in trust.

Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood issued a memorandum on July 15 in response to the request from Governor Barbour to review the Compact in an effort to stop this project. The Attorney General's memorandum states, "After thorough review, staff has found no viable legal cause of action which would halt the proposed development, either by challenging the validity of the 1992 Gaming Compact between the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians... by otherwise challenging the proposed development itself."

YES, BUT... WHAT ABOUT TRIBAL OPPOSITION TO THE PROJECT?

7. Why won't there be a reservation-wide referendum on this project?

The Choctaw Constitution gives tribal members the right to seek a referendum "to approve or reject at the polls any act of the tribal council." Art. XI, §1. Under the Constitution that right can only be exercised by submitting a petition under a "cover letter... in accordance with a procedure to be established by the tribal council." Art. XI, § 6.

The sponsors who wanted to have a referendum on this project did not timely file a proper sponsor letter with the Office of the Mi̱ko within the deadlines established by the Tribal Council in Ordinance 6. That is why the Tribal Election Committee ruled that there would be no referendum on this project.

8. Did Mi̱ko talk with the families who live in Bogue Homa about their concerns before asking the Tribal Council to vote on this?

Yes, Mi̱ko Denson held a community meeting in Bogue Homa on May 6th to discuss the project. An overwhelming majority of attendees supported the casino, but were concerned about a proposed site that was too close to homes and might present a danger to kids in the community. Mi̱ko Denson requested that the planners review another site and determined that the final location presented to the Tribal Council should be a location off of Choctaw Road, away from homes and play areas.

OKAY SO IT'S BUILT, WHAT NEXT?

9. When will the casino be open for business?

Plans call for the casino to be open in January 2011.

......................continued next page

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10. Will there be opportunities for Tribal members who want to open businesses around the casino?

Yes. The Tribal Council designated the entire Bogue Homa community as a resort destination and we hope Tribal entrepreneurs will take advantage of the opportunities presented by this project.

11. What kind of jobs will be down there and how can I apply for a job?

As a satellite of the Pearl River Resort, most management functions will be handled out of the Resort offices. There will be a General Manager, as well as openings for security, slot, surveillance and food and beverage personnel. A job fair will be held in October and more details available in the early fall.

12. Will there be table games or only slot machines?

Plans are for this casino to be a Class III gaming facility, which means that table games are allowed. Right now, we are planning to have 500-700 slot machines only.

13. Will the casino serve alcohol?

Current plans do not include serving alcohol at the facility.

CHA announces Build Choctaw project

The Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) has been awarded a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to operate an AmeriCorps project. The program will be known as Build Choctaw. Under the terms of the agreement, the CHA will employ 20 volunteers who will assist in housing construction projects on the Choctaw Reservation.

Volunteers will spend approximately 33 hours per week at a construction site and approximately seven hours per week in the classroom.

AmeriCorps volunteers must have an interest in learning a construction trade. Training will be offered in carpentry, drywall installation, painting, landscaping, plumbing and electricity. Previous construction experience is helpful but not necessary.

Persons who do not have a high school diploma and who would like to work toward a G.E.D. are especially invited to submit an application. Both men and women are encouraged to apply.

Volunteers will be paid a stipend during their year of service. Volunteers are expected to complete a one year term of service. At the end of the year volunteers should have skills needed to get a job in the construction industry. They will also be encouraged to continue their education by attaining a G.E.D. or enrolling in classes at a nearby community college.

The first Build Choctaw project will be the new Tiak Chitto Subdivision located off Frog Level Road in the Pearl River community. Thirty-two housing units are planned.

Build Choctaw employment applications are available at the Choctaw Housing Authority on Highway 16 in the Pearl River community.

HOUSING .... continued from page one

federal stimulus dollars to build these 32 new homes for the benefit of our elders and veterans. I will continue to work with the Housing Authority and the Tribal Housing Program to aggressively pursue housing funding, build more houses, and move more Tribal members into their own homes."

The Choctaw Housing Authority received approximately $4.3 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 signed by President Barack Obama through the Office of Native American Programs to build the new subdivision.

"The Tiak Chitto Subdivision project is an outstanding example of the positive impact that Recovery Act funds are having in communities throughout the country," says Kevin Fitzgibbons, Administrator for the Eastern Woodlands Office of Native American Programs. "The project will provide 32 units of much needed housing for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw. In addition, these housing units will have state of the art energy efficiencies and other green building design techniques."

All units will be constructed using SIPs to prevent air leakage, causing a drastic cut in utilities cost for heating and cooling, for the homeowner. The panels are made of a thick piece of foam sandwiched between two solid wood boards. They are precut and less fossil fuel is needed to manufacture the recyclable product, which is also another green aspect of the material.

The subdivision will include eight 2-bed room duplexes and sixteen single family homes consisting of: four 2-bed rooms, six 3-bed rooms, six 4-bedrooms for elderly, disabled and/or veterans.

Choctaw Housing Authority Chairman of the Board Eddie Sam believes that the development is an ideal location for its targeted clientele and has been designed to create a community environment.

"This new community will be centrally located next to two existing elderly activity centers, a shopping center, and the future site for a hospital. It will also feature a small walking park with a pavilion, and BBQ pit to conduct traditional outing/services for resident members."

Sam adds that clearing, grubbing, sewage, water, and road work construction is 90 percent complete.

When finished, the 27 acre subdivision will be the first of its kind on the reservation with a community garden for its resident to grow their own vegetables.

A police substation, mail room and exercise area are also planned in the future as a part of the Tiak Chitto Subdivision.

Over the next year, the Choctaw Housing Authority will have built 196 housing units for tribal members.

Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Special Call Meeting - June 8, 2010

Resolution CHO 10-081, authorizing a new casino and designating a new casino site and resort area in the Bogue Homa Community, Choctaw Indian Reservation, was adopted 8 in favor, 7 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-082, approving the refinancing of the loan agreement dated November 4, 2004, as amended, among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians D/B/A Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as a Tribe the Lenders Referred to Therein and Commerzbank, AG, New York, and Grand Cayman Branches, as Administrative Agent, and necessary and negotiated fees and payments related to the refinancing, was adopted 8 in favor, 7 opposed, 0 abstaining.

CHOCTAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Hospital improvements under way

As many of you have noticed the hospital is in the process of many capital improvements. We secured American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for the roof and HVAC systems and these improvements are scheduled to be completed by August 30. The hospital roof had degraded to a point where there were multiple leaks causing water damage to the tiles and the structure. ARRA funds have also been used to purchase a new CT machine to provide better diagnostic services to Tribal members. The machine has been installed and we are waiting on a software package to begin using this tool that will greatly improve the ability of the physicians to provide quality care for our patients.

I appreciate the patience that Tribal members and employees have shown over the last month with the repaving of the parking lot. The parking lot has been in desperate need of repair and we were able to use some federal funding to mill and resurface the entire parking lot. This project should be completed by August 1.

We also obtained funding for a new emergency generator to ensure more areas of the hospital are supplied with power in the event of an outage. This will ensure that all patient and service areas will have power in the event of an emergency.

We continue to aggressively pursue and obtain federal funding to improve the quality of the sanitation system.

All of these projects have been delayed for a number of years and we have been able to achieve and complete these projects within the last year. The Hospital is moving forward to create a better space to offer quality services to tribal members and bring its technology to the 21st century.

PATIENT SAFETY

Pharmacists are not only busy behind the counter filling prescriptions, but they're also helping other hospital professionals improve medication safety, mixing sterile IV medications & helping patients understand their medications better. Pictured above, Choctaw Health Department Pharmacist Dr. Jason Myers, right, conducts sterile product education & training with Director of Nursing Regina Isaac, RN, left, as Ole Miss pharmacy student Robin Watts observes.

Fourth Unity Walk held in Choctaw

Stickball season a time for unity in fight against Diabetes

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)/Diabetes Prevention Program recently held its 4th Annual Unity Walk for Diabetes Awareness. The purpose was to unite our stickball teams & get them involved in our efforts to promote diabetes awareness.

Even though they are rivals on the field during our Choctaw Indian Fair World Series Stickball Tournament, they are all on the same team in the fight against diabetes.

This year, all 23 teams were represented. Each team walked from their practice fields. Some teams began their walk/run as early as 6:30 a.m., & from as far as 35 miles to the Choctaw Central High School baseball field.

At 9:30 a.m., teams began arriving at the baseball field. They were provided with fresh fruits, breakfast bars & plenty of water to rejuvenate them after their long walk. Upon arrival of all teams, they were joined by their family & fans. At 11 a.m., all teams lined up for the final walk to the Pearl River Amphitheater.

The final walk was escorted by the Choctaw Police Department & led by the Choctaw Color Guard carrying the American & MBCI flags. They were followed by MBCI Chief of Staff Barry McMillan, 2009-10 Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Willis, & Pastor Thomas Ben of the Spirit of Life Christian Center. Drummers followed as all the teams lined up behind them.

Upon arrival at the amphitheater, Tribal leaders made brief comments about the health of our Tribe. The program ended with Pastor Ben praying for unity and better health for our Tribe. Lunch was served & the people were dismissed.

The MBCI Color Guard & 2009-10 Choctaw Princess Famie Willis led stickball teams on the final leg of the 2010 Unity Walk.

The SDPI/DPP program thank the following for their time & contribution to our special annual event:

Barry McMillan, MBCI Chief of Staff;

Tribal Council representatives Edward Wesley (Pearl River), Doris Thompson (Bogue Chitto), Sammy Clemmons Jr. (Bogue Chitto), Ronnie Henry Sr. (Bogue Chitto), Peter Steve (Tucker), Greg Shoemake (Conehatta);

Pastor Thomas Ben, Spirit of Life Christian Center;

2009-10 Choctaw Indian Princess Famie Cheyenne Willis;

MBCI Color Guard members, ministers, elders, drummers, & James Conway of ABM Janitorial Services.

Thanks also to facility building coordinators, workers & development club officers who donated time or resources to the event:

Tucker Development Club donated water;

Tucker Facility Building coordinator escorted the

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Oral piercing - not as safe as you think

Piercing, like tattooing, is one of today's popular forms of "body art" & self-expression. Piercing may seem daring, cool & totally safe because some celebrities use piercing to flaunt their particular style or attitude. But piercing the tongue, lips, cheeks or uvula (the tiny tissue that hangs at the back of the throat) is not as safe as some would have you believe. The mouth's moist environment - home to huge amounts of breeding bacteria - is an ideal place for infection.

An oral piercing can interfere with speech, chewing or swallowing. That may seem like a more inconvenience until you consider that it may also cause:

-Excessive drooling (something you won't see in hip fashion magazines!);

-Infection, pain & swelling;

-Chipped or cracked teeth;

-Injuries to the gums;

-Damage to fillings;

-Increased saliva flow;

-Hypersensitivity to metals;

-Scar tissue;

-Nerve damage.

These harmful effects can happen during the piercing, soon after, or even long after the procedure.

An infection can quickly become life threatening if it's not treated promptly. For example, oral piercing carries a potential risk of endocarditis, an inflammation of the heart valves or tissues. Bacteria can enter the bloodstream through the piercing site in the mouth & travel to the heart where it can colonize on heart abnormalities. This is a risk for people with heart conditions &, in the worst of cases, result in death.

After a piercing, the tongue may swell. There have been reports of swelling serious enough to block the airway. And it's very possible to puncture a nerve during a tongue piercing. If this happens, you may experience a "numb" tongue-nerve damage that is sometimes temporary, but can be permanent. The injured nerve may affect your sense of taste, or how you move your mouth. And damage to the tongue's blood vessels can cause serious blood loss.

In addition, piercing jewelry can sometimes cause allergic responses to the pierced site. The jewelry can even get in the way of dental care by blocking x-rays.

Don't pierce on a whim. The piercing will be an added responsibility to your life, requiring constant attention & upkeep. Talk to your dentist for more information.

From the Choctaw Dental Department

The Choctaw Dental Department has scheduled the Pearl River Head Start and Early Head Start dental examinations for Tuesday, Aug. 3 and Thursday, Aug. 5. Sign-in begins at 7:45 a.m. each day, first come, first serve. Exams will only be available in the morning only. A limited number of exams can be done so don't wait to sign-in. Parents or legal guardians, please be present for signatures.

FOR PATIENTS IN BOGUE HOMA & TENNESSEE

Due to limited funding, starting August 1 the dental department will be seeing emergencies related to toothaches only.

Cooking demonstration held at Farmer's Market

WIC Nutritionist Natalie Byram recently showed Choctaw Farmer's Market participants how to use some of the fresh produce that is available at the market to make fresh salsa. Below is the recipe.

EASY DO IT YOURSELF SALSA

This recipe uses fresh tomatoes & jalapenos. Tomatoes & jalapenos are great sources of Vitamin C & A for your body. These vitamins help keep your immune system healthy. You can use a food processor or chop by hand for this recipe. No cooking involved! It's great for hot summer days!

INGREDIENTS

-4 large tomatoes (about 1 pound) DICED about 2 cups

-1/4 cup white onion, chopped

-1 tablespoon dried cilantro

-2 teaspoons jalapeno pepper, minced

-1 1/2 teaspoons lime juice

-1 teaspoon salt

-1/2 teaspoon minced garlic

Optional - add whole kernel corn or black beans to change up this recipe.

PREPARATION

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. If you like smoother salsa - more like jarred - you can put half the recipe in a food processor then combine. Cover tightly & refrigerate for up to five days. Enjoy with tortilla chips! This is a low calorie, low carbohydrate snack. Just limit the chips!

WIC Dietitian Natalie Byram, far left, has been hosting cooking demonstrations at the Choctaw Farmer's Market to promote healthy eating & cooking. Above, Byram demonstrated making healthy smoothies & how to get families to eat more fruit.

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team;

Conehatta Development Club donated plates;

Conehatta Development Club officers escorted the team;

Conehatta Facility Building coordinator escorted the team;

Conehatta recreation workers escorted the team;

Red Water Development Club donated water;

Red Water Development Club president escorted the team & participated in the walk;

Red Water Facility Building workers escorted the team;

Bogue Chitto Development Club donated plates;

Bogue Chitto Development Club officers escorted the team & participated in the walk;

Bogue Chitto Facility Building coordinator & workers escorted the team;

Crystal Ridge Development Club donated water;

Crystal Ridge Facility Building workers escorted the team;

Standing Pine Development Club donated plates & escorted the team;

Pearl River Development Club donated plates.

Special thanks for SDPI participants who selflessly came out to help make the event a success!

One Fish, Two Fish...

The Choctaw Head Start & Early Head Start Programs sponsored a catfish rodeo at the Lake Pushmataha Pond on June 25, 2010. Geared towards our fatherhood initiative, we invited all fathers & father-figures of Head Start & Early Head Start children to participate.

Several fathers & father-figures brought their fishing poles & fishing skills to our rodeo. In spite of the extreme heat, we had several anglers to bring in prize worthy fish. Prizes were given for largest fish, smallest fish, & most fish caught.

After prizes were awarded, a delicious lunch of grilled hamburgers & hot dogs by legendary grill master, Bob Briscoe, was served by DOECE for all participants.

Congratulations to our prize winners & all our other participants. Just spending time with your child brings great benefit as they learn from you & have fun in the process.

Special thanks to the Choctaw Wildlife Officers who assisted us with weighing of fish & to the Health Center for sending an ambulance team to keep watch in case of an emergency. Also, we want to give a big thanks to the Tribal Maintenance program for use of tables & chairs.

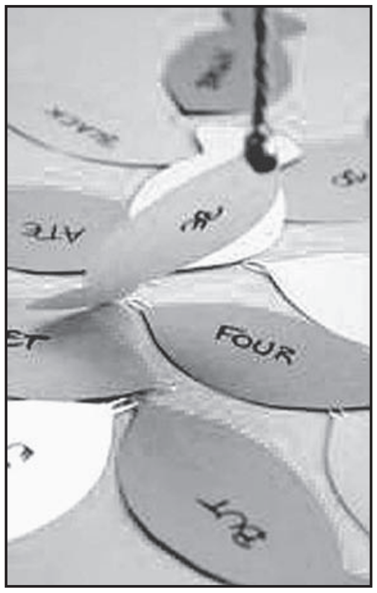
Choctaw Wildlife Officers helped weigh the fishes.

HERE'S A FISHING ACTIVITY FOR YOU TO TRY AT HOME

Materials needed - magnets, construction paper, poles, string, and paper clips.

Goals - To enhance letter recognition skills and to explore alphabet learning through dramatic play.

Before you start: Cut out 26 simple fish shapes and write a letter of the alphabet on each. Attach a paper clip. Make fishing poles by attaching a magnet and a string to the end of a dowel rod, stick, or paper towel tube.



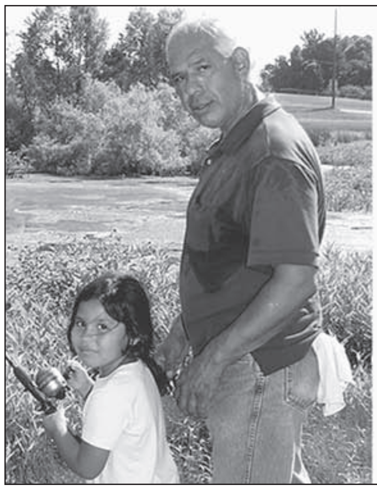
LET'S BEGIN

1. Spread the fish out in a “pond” on the floor. Make sure the letters are face up.

2. Say the rhyme together, using a different letter of the alphabet each time.

3. Teach your child this rhyme, “Fishie, fishie in the sea. Letter ___ swim to me!” Help him/her catch the correct letter on their fishing line.

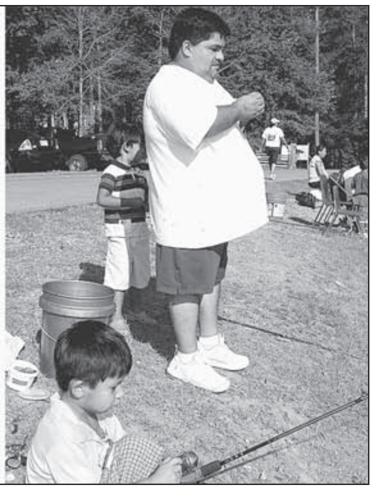
4. You can use capital or lowercase letters or simple sight words.



Raphael McMillan and Katrina.

Wes Wallace & Ansley.

Dean Comby & Haydn Wofford.



Eddie Sam & Cali Wilson.

***Most Fish** - Terrance Kinsolving & Talayah.*

***Biggest Fish** - From left, Brennan Henry & Leon Williams.*

***Smallest Fish** (it took a whole team to reel in the 1 pounder) - Front row, Alexavion Dixon, Rocky Steve, Titan Henry; back row, Rickey Edwards, Jr., Ty Williams, & Rickey Edwards, Sr.*

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO ROUND & ROUND

We are proud to report that the Head Start Program was awarded sufficient funds to purchase three new buses. Funding for two of the buses was obtained through a one time funding allotment within our 2009 Head Start Regular Program. The third bus was purchased using funds awarded through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA). A fourth bus is in the process of being purchased using 2010 Head Start Funds & the remaining funds coming from the 2009 ARRA Head Start funds. We are excited to have these new additions to our Head Start transportation fleet. Centers receiving the first three new buses were Pearl River Head Start, Standing Pine Head Start & Conehatta Head Start. We look forward to getting much use out of our new rides!

PRINCESS .... continued from page one

skit or other type of talent.

During the pageant, contestants showcased beautiful evening gowns and vibrant traditional dresses. The young ladies wore colorful, ornate beadwork and carried hand-woven Choctaw baskets with their traditional dress.

Contestants also responded to an on-stage interview question which ranged in topic from Choctaw culture to current events.

In addition to the pageant, fairgoers enjoyed four fun-filled days of Choctaw culture and spirit with a full line of entertainment, crafts, dances, foods, and the thrilling action of World Championship Stickball.

Other winners included:

Mahli Jaynae Bell, 17 year-old daughter of Crystal and Jason Bell, Sr. of the Tucker Community, was named first alternate;

Martika Deidra Bell, 18 year-old daughter of Thurman and Dorothy Bell of the Bogue Chitto Community, was named second alternate;

Mercedes Star Cotton, 19 year-old daughter of Robert and Patricia Cotton of the Pearl River Community, was named Miss Congeniality and Miss Photogenic.

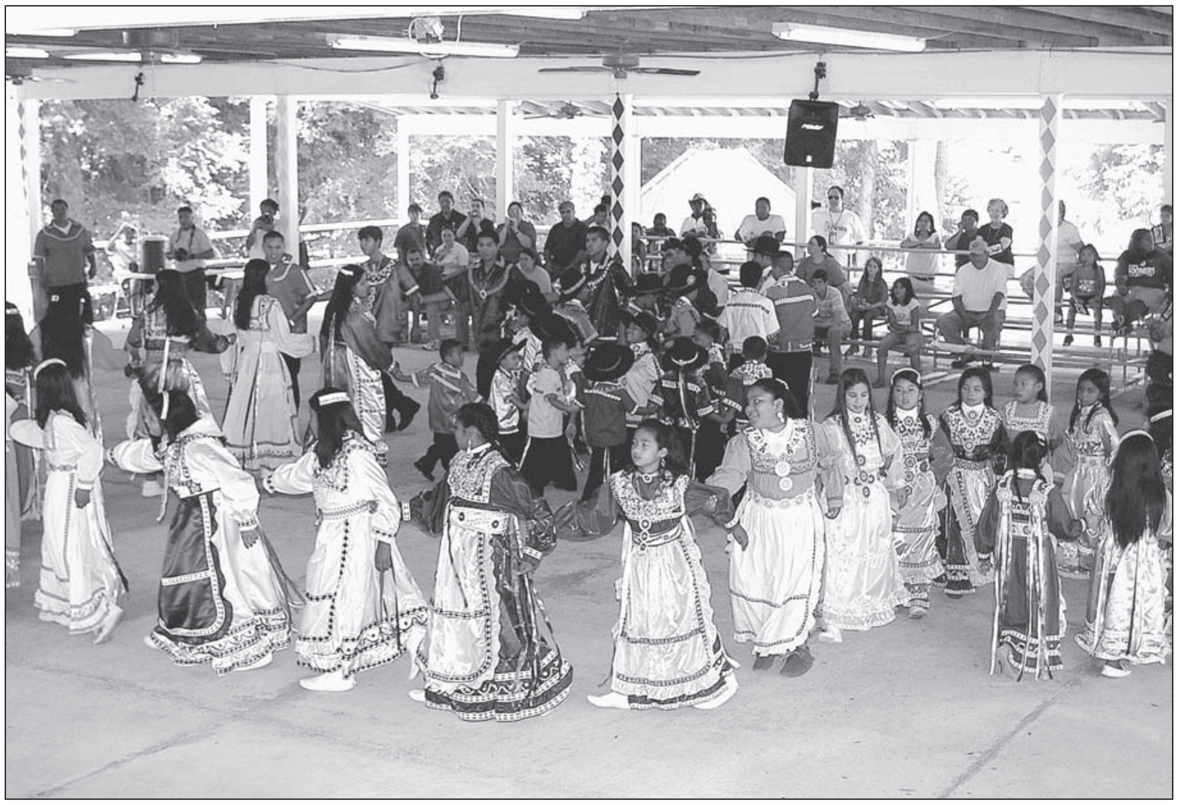
NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Choctaw Cultural Preservation Program worked to provide a lasting experience for visitors to the 2010 Choctaw Indian Fair. With the addition of the *Chahta Immi Ihinoshi* (Choctaw Ways Path), culturally relevant hands-on children's activities including pottery and drum making, rabbit stick throwing, storytelling and beading were offered to fair-goers.

The Choctaw Dance Ground hosted four days of Choctaw social dancing, inter-tribal dancing and Cultural storytelling.

The Cultural Preservation Program also brought the story of Nanih Waiya, "Choctaw Journey-Chahta Aleha Anowa" to the stage.

Fair goers check out the Chahta Immi Ihinoshi (Choctaw Ways Path) located behind the dance ground.



Choctaw social dancers perform at the dance ground during the 61st Choctaw Indian Fair.

.....MORE PICTURES NEXT PAGE

Dianne Ben, far left, demonstrates drum-making at the Chahta Immi I̱hinoshi (Choctaw Ways Path) during the 2010 Choctaw Indian Fair.

LEFT, *World Champion Hoop Dancer Derrick Davis performed at the dance ground during the 2010 Choctaw Indian Fair.* **RIGHT**, *A performance of "How the Possum got his Tail."*

Members of the dance ground crew included, front row from left, Rosemary John, Trudy Jimmie, Casey Bigpond, Sonja Monk, Bruce Jim; back row, Eddie Johnson & Bobby Smith.

Beaver Dam and Bok Cito participated in this year's World Series of Stickball title game on July 17. Beaver Dam won their third consecutive title with a 2-1 victory. It was their 11th title overall.

BEAVER DAM 3-PEATS WITH 2-1 WIN OVER BOK CITO

Beaver Dam won their third consecutive World Series of Stickball title with a 2-1 victory over Bok Cito July 17 to conclude activities at the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, which ran from July 14-17.

Spectators filled Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw as Beaver Dam made their seventh consecutive appearance in the championship game and claimed their 11th overall title since their formation in 1981.

Beaver Dam coach Mark Willis said the title win was not only bitter sweet, but a way to honor two of their fallen players.

"It means a lot. We played for the two players we lost during the year (defensive

..........continued next page

The Choctaw people follow their mi̱ko in a scene from The Choctaw Journey.

LEFT, *A scene from the Choctaw Journey production at the Pearl River Amphitheater.* **RIGHT**, *Martha Ferguson, left, and DeLaura Saunders perform on stage.*

players Darwin Jim and Anthony Bell). We dedicated the first game to them and the team carried that throughout the whole fair and the team wanted to win it for them and it came out pretty good," said Willis.

The road to this year's title was rough, according to Willis, but he was grateful for his team members that came to the practices.

"It says a lot for them. They stuck together. None of them have left, but the ones that did leave have come back and I'm glad about that. I hope we stay together for a lot more years. My hats off to them, they are the ones who deserve it. I would like to see everybody here back to win again. That's what I'm looking for, to win." added Willis.

Beaver Dam earned a berth in the championship game with wins over Nukoachi 12-0 on July 10 , Oka Homma 6-0 on July 12 and Konihata 2-1 in overtime on July 16.

...see STICKBALL, pg. 12

Action was fierce in the championship game.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL
WARRIORS
VISITOR

Sportsmanship was shown on the field after Beaver Dam's win

MEN'S DIVISION CHAMPION - BEAVER DAM

2010 MEN'S DIVISION RECAP

Game #1 (7/8)
BOK CITO 4, TUCKER 1
BC - John Wesley (9:49, 1st)
BC - Tilson Williams (1:10, 1st)
BC - Michael Ray Morris (11:35, 2nd)
T - Rian Willis (2:27, 3rd)
BC - Bracey Billie (14:24, 4th)

Game #2 (7/9)
UNIFIED 7, TIAK HIKIYA 0
U - Giovann Dixon (9:27, 2nd)
U - Michael Thomas (4:55, 2nd)
U - Shane Thomas (4:00, 2nd)
U - Todd Jim (10:14, 3rd)
U - Shane Thomas (12:24, 4th)
U - Curtis Billie (9:32, 4th)
U - Joey Stephens (5:00, 4th)

Game #3 (7/10)
BEAVER DAM 12, NUKOACHI 0
BD - Errol Farmer (12:34, 1st)
BD - Errol Farmer (11:55, 1st)
BD - Brent Clemons (13:45, 2nd)
BD - Michael Willis (12:17, 2nd)
BD - Isaiah Mingo (11:18, 2nd)
BD - Brent Clemons (6:46, 2nd)
BD - Todd York (2:24, 2nd)
BD - Kyle Henry (14:18, 3rd)
BD - Errol Farmer (13:55, 3rd)
BD - Rory Willis Jr (9:06, 3rd)
BD - Chris Isaac (7:41, 3rd)
BD - Matthew Bell (1:05, 3rd)
Game called end of 3rd, mercy rule

Game #4 (7/10)
OKA HOMMA 11, RENEGADES 0
OH - Bryant Thomas (12:59, 1st)
OH - Jordan Wilson (11:16, 1st)
OH - Joseph Gibson (9:02, 1st)
OH - Ryland Wesley (7:23, 1st)
OH - Luke Allen Jr. (4:56, 1st)
OH - Drexler Tangle (1:01, 1st)
OH - Bryant Thomas (9:40, 2nd)
OH - Henry Dixon Jr. (4:45, 2nd)
OH - Todd Bell (11:36, 3rd)
OH - Butch Billie (4:27, 3rd)
OH - Gareth Cauthen (:36, 3rd)
Game called end of 3rd, mercy rule

Game #5 (7/10)
KONIHATA 5, WARRIORS 2
K - Donovan King (11:37, 1st)
K - Lucus Thomas (2:01, 1st)
K - Devon Solomon (14:19, 2nd)
K - Daneon King (13:02, 2nd)
K - Marco Wickson (11:20, 2nd)
W - Elliot Dan (1:07, 3rd)
W - Cody Morris (7:38, 4th)

Game #6 (7/10)
BOK CITO 6, NANIH WAIYA 1
BC - Lionel Bell (9:27, 1st)
NW - Sammy Clemmons (5:09, 1st)
BC - Bracey Billie (12:16, 2nd)
BC - Bracey Billie (6:28, 3rd)
BC - Bracey Billie (5:47, 3rd)
BC - Michael Ray Morris (9:21, 4th)
BC - Larry T. Bell (5:51, 4th)

Game #7 (7/12)
UNIFIED 13, OK CHOCTAWS 2
U - O'Brian Vaughn (12:58, 1st)
U - Todd Jim (11:48, 1st)
U - Wade Ben (9:47, 1st)
OC - Jay Mule (7:35, 1st)
U - Neal Vaughn (5:03, 1st)
U - Todd Jim (11:38, 2nd)
U - Jamison Johnson (9:03, 2nd)
OC - Jay Mule (2:52, 2nd)
U - Steve Dixon (1:38, 2nd)
U - Skyler Thomas (:41, 2nd)
U - Cedric Williams (:01, 2nd)
U - Germain Isom (14:05, 3rd)
U - Germain Isom (10:56, 3rd)
U - Germain Isom (9:21, 3rd)
U - Rockky Isom (5:41, 3rd)
Game called end of 3rd, mercy rule

Game #8 (7/12)
BEAVER DAM 6, OKA HOMMA 0
BD - Dwight McMillan (9:34, 1st)
BD - Brent Clemons (11:19, 2nd)
BD - Dakota Clemons (:52, 2nd)
BD - Dwight McMillan (5:37, 3rd)
BD - Isaiah Mingo (7:07, 4th)
BD - Errol Farmer (:58, 4th)

Game #9 (7/14)
KONIHATA 5, PEARL RIVER 2
PR - Scott Gibson (5:04, 1st)
PR - Delanie Hickman (2:10, 1st)
K - Marco Wickson (10:37, 2nd)
K - Dale Phillips Jr. (3:25, 2nd)
K- Daylon Phillips (14:27, 3rd)
K - Davin Solomon (9:43, 3rd)
K - Dewett Phillips (1:45, 4th)

Game #10 (7/15)
BOK CITO 2, UNIFIED 1 (OT)
U - Neal Vaughn (14:36, 2nd)
BC - Joey Morris (8:42, 3rd)
BC - Ricky Isaac (OT)

Game #11 (7/16)
BEAVER DAM 2, KONIHATA 1 (OT)
K - Dale Phillips Jr. (5:38, 1st)
BD - Chris Isaac (5:45, 3rd)
BD - Matthew Bell (OT)

FINALS (7/17)
BEAVER DAM 2, BOK CITO 1
BD - Isaiah Mingo (13:35, 1st)
BC - Leslie Morris (5:19, 1st)
BD - Matthew Bell (1:54, 2nd)

STICKBALL

continued from page eleven

Bok Cito had wins over Tucker 4-1 on July 8, Nanih Waiya 6-1 on July 10 and Unified 2-1 in overtime on July 15 to earn a spot in the title game.

Both teams got on the board in the first quarter as Isaiah Mingo scored for Beaver Dam 13:35 in the contest. Leslie Morris tied the game for Bok Cito at the 5:19 mark.

Matthew Bell, who scored the winning shot for Beaver Dam the night before against Konihata in overtime, made the eventual game winner with 1:54 left in the second quarter.

The second half featured both defenses playing at the height of skills and tenacity as offenses had limited opportunities to score.

"We tried hard, but we got beat. They were too much for us. I guess we were burned out tonight," said Bok Cito coach Louie Morris.

In the semifinal game against Unified on Thursday, July 15, Bok Cito went almost 17 minutes in overtime before Ricky Isaac scored the winning goal to propel them into the finals.

"We just couldn't follow what we did Thursday. We did everything on Thursday to win. We could have won this one too but we just gave out," said Morris.

Bok Cito last won the title in 2006 and currently have seven overall titles.

During the post-game trophy presentation, Beaver Dam defensive player Gabriel Bell was named Most Valuable Player of the series.

"The only thing I can say is that everybody on this team deserves it and I'm glad to be on the top rank along with the MVP (honor). It was pretty close. I enjoy playing but I'm planning on retiring. I don't know yet. If God is willing, I'll be here again next year," said Bell.

WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMPION - BIHHI AYASHA

2010 WOMEN'S DIVISION RECAP

Game #1 (7/8)
KONIHATA OHOYO 4,
BEAVER DAM 2
KO - Deaundrea Johnson, (5:51, 1st)
KO - Trista Phillips (:37, 1st)
KO - Cheyanne Wallace (1:04, 2nd)
BD - Robin Isaac (9:41, 4th)
BD - Ria Willis (4:14, 4th)
KO - Zenetta Williams (:26, 4th)

Game #2 (7/8)
BIHHI AYASHA 7,
BOK CITO 0
BA - Delanda Chickaway (7:40, 1st)
BA - Denina Isaac (5:12, 1st)
BA - Ashton Thompson (7:58, 2nd)
BA - Denina Isaac (3:41, 2nd)
BA - Delanda Chickaway (7:21, 4th)
BA - Dyranda Jimmie (5:08, 4th)
BA - Brittny Morris (5:00, 4th)

Game #3 (7/9)
TALI OHOYO 15,
NANIH WAIYA OHOYO 0
TO - Melinda Ben (9:56, 1st)
TO - Chiral Stephens (6:20, 1st)
TO - Melinda Ben (4:54, 1st)
TO - Odessa Vasquez (2:08, 1st)
TO - Lequita King (1:35, 1st)
TO - Kendra Anderson (:53, 1st)
TO - Jennifer Thomas (7:11, 2nd)
TO - Tawnie Smith (3:19, 2nd)
TO - Jennifer Thomas (2:38, 2nd)
TO - Skye Smith (9:31, 3rd)
TO - Jennifer Thomas (8:54, 3rd)
TO - Jennifer Thomas (8:20, 3rd)
TO - Skye Smith (5:03, 3rd)
TO - Ashley Dixon (3:14, 3rd)
TO - Willa Thomas (1:05, 3rd)
Game called end of 3rd, mercy rule

Game #4 (7/9)
KONIHATA OHOYO 1,
LADY WARRIORS 0
KO - Zenetta Williams (9:09, 3rd)

Game #5 (7/9)
BIHHI AYASHA 13,
OHOYO NUKOACHI 1
BA - Cecilia Willis (9:13, 1st)
BA - Brittny Morris (5:37, 1st)
BA - Denina Isaac (4:21, 1st)
BA - Dyranda Jimmie (3:28, 1st)
BA - Shandell Hickman (2:09, 1st)
BA - Brittny Morris (:49, 1st)
BA - Kelley Sockey (7:37, 2nd)
BA - Delanda Chickaway (2:12, 2nd)
BA - Delanda Chickaway (1:25, 2nd)
BA - Kristen Steve (:39, 2nd)
ON - Ashley Edwards (9:54, 3rd)
BA - Kelley Sockey (9:26, 3rd)
BA - Leslie Evans (5:55, 3rd)
BA - Cecilia Willis (3:27, 3rd)
Game called end of 3rd, mercy rule

Game #6 (7/10)
LADY RENEGADES 5,
TIAK HIKIYA OHOYO 1
LR - Wendy Isaac (5:21, 1st)
THO - Lucinda Denson (9:31, 3rd)
LR - Shavon Isaac (9:13, 3rd)
LR - Lacynthia Dixon (8:19, 4th)
LR - Lacynthia Dixon (7:39, 4th)
LR - Lacynthia Dixon (4:21, 4th)

Game #7 (7/12)
TALI OHOYO 1,
KONIHATA OHOYO 1
TO - Taren Wallace (9:31, 2nd)
KO - Jeri Cotton (8:03, 2nd)
TO - Melinda Ben (6:50, 2nd)
TO - Leandrea Morris (4:40, 3rd)

Game #8 (7/12)
BIHHI AYASHA 10,
LADY RENEGADES 1
BA - Dyranda Jimmie (8:33, 1st)
BA - Delanda Chickaway (7:49, 1st)
BA - Delanda Chickaway (6:10, 1st)
BA - Cecilia Willis (4:13, 1st)
BA - Dyranda Jimmie (3:07, 1st)
BA - Kelley Sockey (1:37, 1st)
BA - Denina Isaac (9:06, 2nd)
BA - Denina Isaac (4:42, 2nd)
BA - Cecilia Willis (1:27, 2nd)
BA - Kelley Sockey (4:54, 3rd)
LR - Lacynthia Dixon (3:25, 3rd)

Finals (7/13)
BIHHI AYASHA 4,
TALI OHOYO 0
BA - Denina Isaac (5:15, 1st)
BA - Alecia Willis (4:38, 2nd)
BA - Alecia Willis (:38, 3rd)
BA - Denina Isaac (5:11, 3rd)

OTHER CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

In championship games held on July 13 at Warrior Stadium, it was the South team defeating the North team 4-3 in the 40-Over Division.

Craig Anderson put the South team on the board first with his goal at the 7:36 mark in the first. The North team tied and took the lead 2-1 with goals by Eric Dixon and Willis Hickman.

The South's Greg Shoemake tied the game 2-2 with his goal 5:41 left in the half.

In the third, the South regained the lead with goals again by Shoemake (8:25) and Anderson (1:19) for a 4-2 score.

The North made it a one point contest with Carl

..........continued next page

***RIGHT*,**
MEN'S 35-OVER DIVISION CHAMPION - OKA HOMMA

Hickman's goal 2:45 left in the game but it was a little too late for a comeback this year.

Ricky Anderson of the South team was named MVP of the game.

In the 35-Over Division, Oka Homma defeated Konihata 7-1.

Oka Homma took a 2-0 lead in the first with goals by Bobby Mitch and Greg Dixon.

Konihata got their lone score of the contest with Jerome Jefferson's goal 9:42 in the second to trail 2-1. Gaylon Williams added to Oka Homma's lead 3-2 with his goal 3:05 in the half.

Oka Homma made it a 5-1 lead in the third with goals by Roderick Sockey and Eric Dixon.

Dixon and Gabriel Bell added goals in the fourth for

..............continued page 16

MEN'S 40-OVER DIVISION CHAMPION - SOUTH TEAM

2010 MEN'S 35-OVER DIVISION RECAP

Game #1 (7/8)
BOK CITO 3,
BEAVER DAM 0
BC - Leon Wesley, (1:14, 2nd)
BC - Tilson Williams (:30, 2nd)
BC - Neal Vaughn (:25, 4th)

Game #2 (7/8)
KONIHATA 8,
16 POW WOW 1
KH - Melford Smith (3:10, 1st)
KH - Quendal Shoemake (2:02, 2nd)
KH - Jerome Jefferson (:47, 2nd)
KH - Cedric Williams (7:14, 3rd)
KH - Craig Anderson (4:42, 3rd)
KH - Vincent Smith (3:34, 3rd)
KH - Quendal Shoemake (7:08, 4th)
KH - Jerome Jefferson (5:57, 4th)
16PO - Mark Tubby (:25, 4th)

Game #3 (7/9)
OKA HOMMA 4, BOK CITO 3
OH - Gaylon Williams (7:49, 2nd)
BC - Gurdy Farmer (7:11, 2nd)
BC - Pat Tubby (3:41, 2nd)
OH - Ricky John (5:12, 3rd)
BC - Tilson Williams (2:36, 3rd)
OH - Chris Thomas (8:02, 4th)
OH - Ricky John (:11, 4th)

FINALS (7/13)
OKA HOMMA 7,
KONIHATA 1
OH - Bobby Mitch (5:05, 1st)
OH - Greg Dixon (4:54, 1st)
K - Jerome Jefferson (9:42, 2nd)
OH - Gaylon Williams (3:05, 2nd)
OH - Roderick Sockey (7:27, 3rd)
OH - Eric Dixon (5:22, 3rd)
OH - Eric Dixon (3:34, 4th)
OH - Gabriel Bell (2:04, 4th)

MEN'S 40 & OVER FINALS

(7/13)
SOUTH 4, NORTH 3
S - Craig Anderson (7:36, 1st)
N - Eric Dixon (5:27, 1st)
N - Willie Hickman (2:33, 1st)
S - Greg Shoemake (5:41, 2nd)
S - Greg Shoemake (8:25, 3rd)
S - Craig Anderson (1:19, 3rd)
N - Carl Hickman (2:45, 4th)

(YOUTH) PUSHMATAHA DIVISION CHAMPION - CONEHATTA

(YOUTH) TULLI OKCHI ISHKO DIVISION CHAMPION - PEARL RIVER

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Looking back at the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair

A Warrior's Spirit

Choctaw Indian

Pepsi-Cola
Beaver Dam
Stickball

STICKBALL .... continued from page thirteen

a 7-1 victory for Oka Homma.

Dixon of Oka Homma was named MVP of the series.

In the Women's Division, Bihhi Ayasha shutout Tali Ohoyo 4-0.

Denina Isaac put Bihhi Ayasha on the board with her goal 5:15 in the first. Team mate Alecia Willis then added to the lead with her goal 4:38 in the second.

A Walk Dance was held after the trophy presentation prior to the fireworks display.

Both Willis and Isaac scored again in the third for a 4-0 lead. Willis scored at the 9:39 mark and Isaac 5:11.

Isaac of Bihhi Ayasha was named MVP of the series.

Championships in the youth division were held on Saturday afternoon, July 17. In the Pushmataha Division (ages 10-13), Conehatta defeated Pearl River 5-1. Eric Billy Jr. was named MVP.

In the Tulli Okchi Ishko Division (ages 14-17), Pearl River won the title with a 3-1 win over Bok Cito. Dalton Clegg was named MVP.

After the trophy presentation, a Walk Dance was performed as Tribal officials, players and people from the stands transformed Warrior Field into a large dance ground. At the conclusion, a large fireworks display lit up the late night sky to end all activities for the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair.

2010 STICKBALL MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

Presenting MVP awards were 2010-2011 Choctaw Indian Princess Mahlih Vaughn & Mi̱ko Beasley Denson

MEN'S DIVISION
MVP Gabriel Bell, Beaver Dam

WOMEN'S DIVISION
MVP Denina Isaac, Bihhi Ayasha

MEN'S 35-OVER DIVISION
MVP Eric Dixon, Oka Homma

MEN'S 40-OVER DIVISION
MVP Ricky Anderson, South Team

YOUTH - PUSHMATAHA DIVISION
MVP Eric Billy Jr., Conehatta

YOUTH - TULLI OKCHI ISHKO DIVISION
MVP Dalton Clegg, Pearl River

United States Census 2010
Today WE Count
March to the Mailbox

TRIBE RECOGNIZED BY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

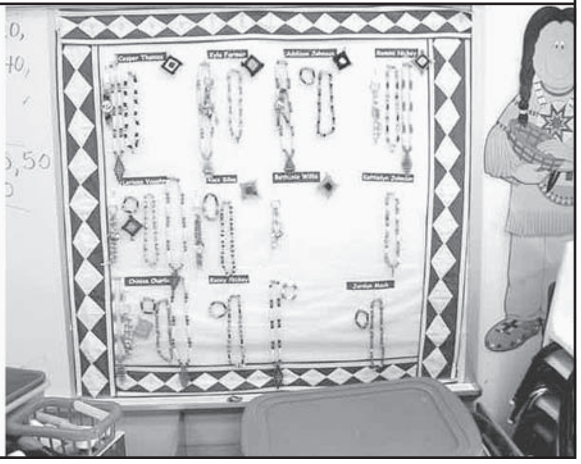
On July 14, during the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau for their cooperation in ensuring an accurate count of the population of the Choctaw Reservation in 2010. **LEFT**, *Mi̱ko Denson, right, accepts on behalf of the Tribe a token of appreciation presented by 2010 Census Senior Tribal Partnership Specialist Stanley B. Lewis out of the Dallas Census Regional Center, left. Pictured in the center is Tribal Partnership Assistant Cynthia Massey.* **RIGHT**, *Mi̱ko Denson then presented Lewis a token of appreciation from the Tribe, a quilt with the Census 2010 logos hand sewn by participants of the Choctaw Elderly Center.*

Conehatta Elementary Summer School news

Halito. Students at Conehatta Elementary School enjoyed summer school during the month of June.

During the morning session, students were provided enrichment skills in academics. In the afternoon, they were involved in cultural activities. They learned new skills that enabled them to make Choctaw cultural items. They also practiced the Choctaw language.

At Open House/Culture Day, students, parents & staff enjoyed student exhibits & a traditional Choctaw meal.



Legacy of Nanih Waiya
Pearl
River
CULTURE
HISTORY
SPORTS
RELIGION
EDUCATION
AGRICULTURE

Pearl River wins booth competition

Pearl River Development Club placed first in the Choctaw Indian Fair community booth competition. Second place went to Tucker Development Club and Bok Cito Development Club placed third. Also placing were Conehatta Development Club, fourth; Red Water Development Club, fifth; Standing Pine Development Club, sixth; Crystal Ridge Development Club, seventh; and Tennessee Choctaws, eighth.

EDUCATIONAL PROFILE:
Ms. Dinah S. Williams

The following highlights the educational accomplishments of Dinah Williams, a 2010 School of Business graduate from Belhaven University in Jackson, Miss.

A licensed and registered nursing home administrator for over 17 years with 12-1/2 years of military leadership experience, Ms. Dinah Williams has an accolade of mid-to-upper management work experience spanning for well over 27 years.

She completed most of her first two years of college coursework at East Central but postponed her education due to limited personal funds and a demanding work schedule. Later, she added the responsibility of becoming a parent to daughter, De'Jorae DeAnne.

De'Jorae was inducted into the Talented and Gifted program at the tender age of seven at Pearl River Elementary School. Special projects and school trips kept mother and daughter busy. At the same time, Dinah was also busy with church fundraising until De'Jorae was in the sixth grade.

In the fall of 2000, Dinah

........see PROFILE, pg. 18

PROFILE continued from page seventeen

and her sister, Linda, decided to apply for admission to Belhaven to move forward with their education. Both were accepted and started the program in February 2001.

Difficult times came for the family in late 2002 as their father, Carter Williams' health started to fail. Their mother, Ruth Williams, provided the monumental care for their father. However, both parents strongly encouraged them to continue with their studies. Dinah completed the lock-step program in December of 2003 but had to take some lower level courses at random during the next two years.

On the eve of Hurricane Katrina's arrival of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Mr. Williams was experiencing complications and admitted to Leake Memorial Hospital. He was later transferred to the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian where he passed away on September 16, 2005.

Despite the adversities in her personal life, Dinah completed all requirements that fall and graduated from Belhaven with a baccalaureate degree in December of 2005.

After receiving her degree, she continued to encourage and support her daughter who was a sophomore at Choctaw Central High School. During the spring of 2008, De'Jorae received the honor of class salutatorian for the 2008 graduating class of Choctaw Central High School.

In August 2008, both mother and daughter embarked on another adventure. Daughter was an entering freshman at Belhaven University while mother was an entering graduate student.

Today, Dinah has graduated from the School of Business at Belhaven University with a degree of Master of Science in Management while she continues to support her daughter's educational endeavor.

The Master of Science in Management curriculum encompasses of thorough research and writing in all required courses with concentration in the following areas: Human Resource, Finance and Accounting, Leadership, Economics, Ethics, Marketing, Organizational Research, Global Business Development, Organizational Change and Development, Project Management, and Strategic Management.

Deep gratitude is extended to her mother, Ms. Ruth Williams. She has always been encouraging, supporting, and doing whatever needed to be done while her two daughters were writing their essay paper, research paper, help with interpreting the Choctaw Bible, and never gave up on them.

"Our greatest asset in achieving our goals has been our parents, Ms. Ruth Williams and the late Carter Williams, who devoted their lifetime in serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

While pondering on her recent accomplishment, Dinah is planning to enter the Doctoral program at one of the universities here in Mississippi soon. Currently, she hopes to mentor high school and local college students who needs assistance in their studies in research and writing and perform consultant work in business management for tribal members who are current or prospective entrepreneurs.

Our warmest thank you is extended to the staff of the Choctaw Tribal Scholarship, Mi̲ko Beasley Denson and the late Chief Phillip Martin. The fundamental resources that were implemented in 1994 by our tribal leaders continue to serve the Choctaw people today with the hope to substantially empower Choctaw tribal members to set educational goals and achieve them. We say "Yakoki!"

Tribal Scholarship honors recent college graduates

The Tribal Scholarship Program would like to recognize and congratulate some more of our 2009-2010 college graduates on a job well done and to recognize their outstanding accomplishments.

We commend all of the graduates for all of the hard work that you did to get your degree and challenge everyone to pursue a higher degree in the near future. Best wishes for your future!

Spring 2010 Graduates

Monica Bread, University of Oklahoma, M.Ed., Adult and Higher Education;

Emily Farmer, Arizona State University, BA, Ethnicity, Race, and First Nation Studies;

Suzy Lane, University of Southern Mississippi, BA, Spanish;

Dillion Vaughn, University of Oklahoma, BA, Art.

If there are any questions, please contact us at 601.650.7409, or e-mail us at mcarson@choctaw.org, samuel.york@choctaw.org or terry.ben@choctaw.org.

Program recognizes students on honor roll

The Vocational Education Program Employment Assistance Program recently honored students that made the 2010 spring semester honor rolls.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

(4.0 grade point average)

Bobby Keith Mitch of Choctaw, East Central Community College (ECCC).

DEAN'S LIST

(3.5 or above grade point average)

Cyril Kane Amos of Philadelphia, ECCC;

Paula Covarrubias of Walnut Grove, ECCC;

Wanoka Lang Thomas of Philadelphia, ECCC;

Deonna Williams of Philadelphia, Meridian Community College.

HONORABLE MENTION LIST

(3.0 or above grade point average)

Ramon Vilez Agurrie Sr. of Philadelphia, ECCC;

Melinda Ruth Amos of Philadelphia, ECCC;

Jamie Vale Anderson of Conehatta, ECCC;

Daniel Evan Bell of Philadelphia, ECCC;

Kristina Marlene Bell of Conehatta, ECCC.

"With Hard work, perseverance and sacrifices, you have accomplished the ultimate milestone of knowledge."

Congratulations students! From the program staff.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi

MENTORS NEEDED!

If interested in mentoring, call Jill at 601.575.8018

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

We want to share some of our summer session events at our club.

June 4 - Allen Meely, Choctaw Fire Department Liaison, came to our club to teach our members about fire safety & to answer questions about being a firefighter. Thank you for your knowledge, Mr. Meely.

June 10-July 8 - Members who signed up for swimming lessons were taken every Thursday during the summer session. The members say “thank you” Brent & his staff for the lessons.

June 11 - Members ages 11-18 toured the Tribal Youth Detention Facility. They were then taken to Lake Pushmataha to fish in the afternoon. Thank you very much for the tour Jeremiah Harrison!

June 16 - Members ages 11-18 visited Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls Club to participate in their one day volleyball tournament. Thanks for the invitation BCB&G!

June 23 & 30 - Members ages 11-18 visited Choctaw

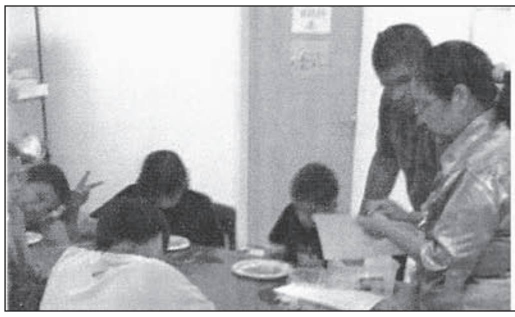
..see CLUB NEWS, pg. 20

Allen Meely makes a presentation as club members wash the fire department vehicle.

Club members enjoy swimming lessons.

Members toured the Tribal Youth Detention Facility & fished at Lake Pushmataha.

Club members at the Challenge Course.



Club members make collar necklaces.

Newton County Sheriff’s Dept. made a presentation as members washed patrol cars.

Members wash a tribal vehicle during a recent presentation.

Members enjoy the activities during the July 12 end of the summer party.

Tribal members participate in a 2 Mile Run/Walk on July 10.

Funding for Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands Project announced

CHOCTAW, Miss. - The Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) announced that it is one of four Native American Boys & Girls Clubs selected to receive funding for a new Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands Youth Development Project.

Through funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, the MBCI Boys & Girls Club will partner with the Choctaw Youth Justice Center to conduct Boys & Girls Clubs of America core programs within the tribal detention facility.

The Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI is pleased to participate in this exciting project and to carry on the program’s mission to support tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve juvenile justice systems for American Indian/Alaska Native youth.

For more information, please stop by the Club or contact Tia Faye Anderson at 601.663.7016 or at tia.anderson@choctaw.org.

CLUB NEWS .... continued from page nineteen

Challenge Course to learn about team work & self confidence. Thanks again Andrew Jones for assisting us this summer.

June 24 - Ms. Lorena Alex & Ms. Trudy Jimmie of the Cultural Affairs Program came & demonstrated how to make simple necklaces as well as a collar necklace. Thank you ladies for taking the time to come teach our members.

June 25 - Members present at the club were informed about the dangers of drugs & alcohol by the Newton County Sheriff's Department. Torch & Keystone club members washed their patrol cars as a community service.

June 27 - Members were selected for participation, volunteering, behavior & attendance to attend a Father's Day activity. These members & their fathers were taken to a Mississippi Braves baseball game in Pearl. The staff & members say "thank you & Happy Father's Day" to all dads, uncles, guardians, & father figures in our lives.

July 2 - Douglas Williams with Homeland Emergency Management & Choctaw Storm Spotters did a severe storm safety presentation to all club members. In return, the Jr. staff program washed his program vehicle as a gesture of gratitude.

July 8 - Members enjoyed a pool party at the community swimming pool. They ate hot dogs grilled by chef Ron, watermelons, chips, & cool aid. Thanks chef Ron for grilling in the hot sun. We appreciate you.

MISSISSIPPI BRAVES

Selected club members participated in a Father's Day activity as they attended a Mississippi Braves baseball game in Pearl.

July 12 - Members were treated to an end of summer party. They played with the water outside, threw water balloons, ate watermelons & pizza for lunch, played bingo, watched movies "Alice In Wonderland" & "G-Force", & other outside activities.

We had an active summer. The staff & members say thank you to all YOP members - "Nemo", Shilandrea, Laken, Mariah, Crystal, Cassondra, Zee, & Brandell - for helping us this summer.

Parents, come by the club to enroll your child for the school session. As always, each member must have an updated application to come to the club.

Choctaw Independent Living Services

The Choctaw Office for Independent Living Services (OILS) serves Choctaw individuals who experience a significant physical or mental impairment that limits their function to live independently in the home or community.

The mission of OILS is to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, in

..........continued next page

Bell named 2010 Outstanding Participant

SIGN IN FOR APPLICATI
Choctaw Justice Complex
TERRY BELL

LEFT, *Terry Bell with his awards for being named 2010 Outstanding Participant of the Year by the Choctaw Employment and Training*. **RIGHT**, *Congratulating Bell is Choctaw Employment and Training Director Julia Lindsey, left.*

Choctaw Employment and Training staff members congratulating Bell were, seated from left, Josephine Thompson, Dawnena John, Deborah Henry; standing, Julia Lindsey, Terry Bell, & Sally Jim.

The Choctaw Employment and Training staff proudly announces the 2010 Outstanding Participant of the Year - Mr. Terry Bell. Bell is a proud member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and past participant of the Workforce Investment Act Program.

Bell enrolled with Choctaw Employment and Training in January 2009. He was placed as a maintenance aide at the Smith John Justice Complex under the Workforce Investment Act Program.

After receiving many weekly outstanding evaluations, Bell's worksite supervisor said if Bell continued to do well throughout his training, he was going to recommend him for hire. Bell successfully completed work experience and was hired with the Tribe in April 2009. He retained his employment for over a year. He overcame many barriers to employment but his struggle continues.

Bell was nominated by the staff of Choctaw Employment and Training. He was selected by the 2010 National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference committee.

After making a speech at the awards banquet during the National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 28, 2010, Bell was honored with a beautiful Pendleton blanket, awarded by the Department of Labor Indians and Native American Program Outstanding Participant Award and a cash award of $500.

The cash award was provided by the California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc., in honor of Mrs. Linda Cruz. Ms. Cruz's contribution during her more than 30 years of service to the Native communities significantly improved Indian and Native American Workforce Investment Act Programs at a national level.

order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of Choctaw individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of Choctaw individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society, by the provision of appropriate Independent Living (IL) support services.

Any individual with a significant disability can qualify for services if he or she meets the following criteria.

- Has a severe physical or mental impairment; and the individual's ability to function independently in the family or community or ability to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment is substantially limited
- Is expected to have his or her ability to function, to continue functioning, or to move towards functioning independently in the family or community; or to continue in employment improved by the delivery of Independent Living Services
- Is American Indian and has Tribal Membership, and
- Lives on or near the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation.

In addition to serving individuals with disabilities, OILS advocates for people with disabilities and offers training in the areas of Self-Advocacy, Emergency Preparation and Budgeting Skills.

If you apply and become eligible for IL services, the IL counselor will work with you in planning your Individualized Plan for Independent Living (IPIL) based on your IL needs and within the budgetary restrictions of the program. Unfortunately, the IL program has very limited funding and may not be able to meet all of your needs. However, the agency will work in coordination with other agencies to meet your needs in the best possible way.

It is the policy of OILS to keep all personal information confidential and will not disclose without your expressed consent.

If you or a family member may need Independent Living Services, please contact Theron Denson at 601-650-7341 or Mary Lundy Meruvia at 601-650-7333. The office is located in the Manpower Training Center in the Pearl River Community.

"FREE" CREDIT REPORTS?

By Susan Cosgrove, Family Resource Management Area Extension Agent. Submitted by Jim McAdory, Area Extension Agent for MBCI

How do you know when "free" credit reports are actually free? Many of the free credit reports offered by companies often come with strings attached - hidden fees or enrollment charges after a free trial period ends, for example. In April 2010, a new rule from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) went into effect that requires web sites advertising "free" credit reports to direct people to the only government-approved site for free credit reports, www.annualcreditreport.com. By the way, these "free" credit reports also advertise through other media outlets.

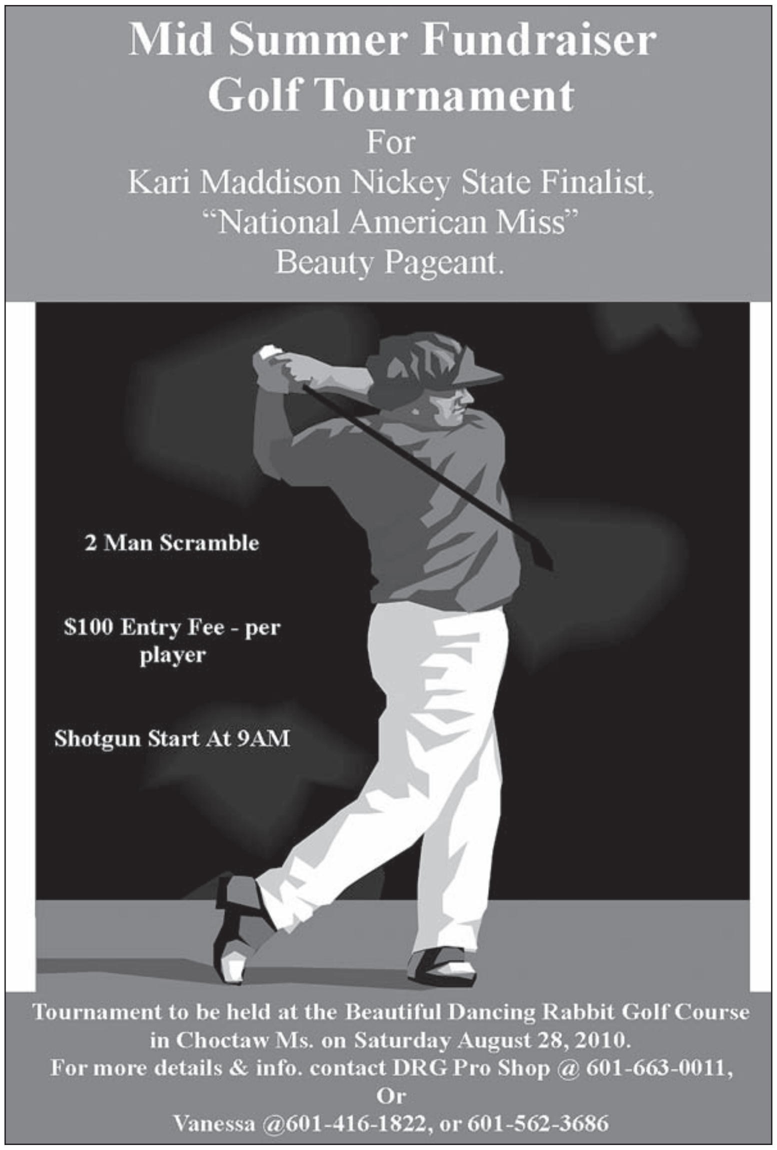
Prior to the new rule, companies & web sites other than annualcreditreport.com offered "free" credit reports in conjunction with a package of services, such as credit monitoring. For example, you would have access to a free credit report for a trial period, & then be charged a monthly fee for a credit monitoring service once the trial period ended. Unknowing consumers may be charged upwards of $15 a month for what could be unnecessary services.

Under the new rule, www.annualcreditreport.com is the only site offering truly free credit reports, & all other companies offering credit reports for a fee must disclose their fees in their advertisements. When obtaining your free credit report, there are a few ways you can access it:

- Once every 12 months, from each of the credit reporting bureaus: Experian, Equifax, & Transunion. You can access each report through annualcreditreport.com. You can request your free credit report online, by phone or by mail.
- If you are a victim of identity theft or fraud, or if you are unemployed & looking for work (potential employers can pull your credit report).
- If you've been denied credit or insurance.

What does this mean for you? First, if you would just like to view your credit report so you can monitor changes or look for inaccuracies, you can do so by accessing one report from each bureau, once every twelve months. You can either obtain all three reports once every 12 months, or request one report

.......see REPORTS, pg. 22


Mid Summer Fundraiser
Golf Tournament
For
Kari Maddison Nickey State Finalist,
"National American Miss"
Beauty Pageant.

2 Man Scramble

$100 Entry Fee - per player

Shotgun Start At 9AM

Tournament to be held at the Beautiful Dancing Rabbit Golf Course in Choctaw Ms. on Saturday August 28, 2010.
For more details & info. contact DRG Pro Shop @ 601-663-0011,
Or
Vanessa @601-416-1822, or 601-562-3686

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REPORTS .... continued from page twenty-one

from each bureau once every four months. For example, request one report from Experian in January, one report from Equifax in May, & one report from Transunion in September. Checking your report every four months is a good way to keep track of any changes or dispute inaccurate information in a timely manner.

In addition, if you think you are a victim of identity theft & someone is fraudulently using credit in your name, you can request a copy of your report. If you are denied credit, insurance, or employment due to bad credit, you are entitled to a free report if you request your report within 60 days of receiving notice of denial. This notice will give you the contact information of the consumer reporting company & tell you how to obtain your report.

There are many reasons to obtain your credit report, & knowing how, when, & where to access it for free can help keep your credit history on the right track. If you have any questions about how to obtain your report or about the information in your credit report, contact your County Office of Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Getting Ready for School

submitted by Karen Benson, Family Life Educator, MSU Extension Service

As the start of a new school year approaches, parents shop for new clothes & supplies. Children hope for a nice teacher in a class with friends. Teachers prepare classrooms, lesson plans, & forms. There is a lot of work that goes into the start of a school year.

Although I've been in education more than 20 years, I am not an expert in any one subject. If I had to choose what grade is most important, I choose kindergarten. This seems to be the "official" beginning of education. Dr. Craig Ramey & his wife & research partner, Dr. Sharon Ramey, have studied children & patterns of learning in school for more than 30 years. Their research, along with many other studies, cite the early years as the key to life-long learning.

If I had to choose the most important thing a child must know, so they don't get "left behind", it is getting along with others. While reading is important, children who are encouraged will learn more of everything. Discouraged students quit learning eventually. Classmates, schools & families can create a climate where learning thrives by getting along & encouraging each other.

Educators call learning to get along with others "social skills." Independence in keeping up with belongings, helping with simple chores, listening & following directions are social skills children need to know before going to school. Children need to be taught & held responsible for their behavior. They need to be able to talk & answer questions, so they can have a conversation with adults or children. A teacher can teach a child who can do these things.

Not long ago, getting ready for kindergarten was new shoes & a visit to the school. Not anymore. Today we know that going to school is a process. Children who do well in school get along well with others. The family has

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ONE DAY PHOTO DISPLAY
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Sunday August 15, 2010
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Local Tribal photographers to display photographs of 2010 Stickball action photos, including previous years collections. One day event only. 8x10 or larger prints. Color & black & white prints will be displayed.

For more information, contact Vince O. Nickey at 601.562.3686, or email vince.nickey@yahoo.com

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as much impact as schools or teachers on a child's success in school.

What can parents & caregivers do to help a child get ready for school? Hopefully, these suggestions will help you begin the process. Even older students sometimes forget basic social skills. Parents really are a child's first teacher.

10 Things to Know When Going to School

1. How to fasten & unfasten clothing.
2. Toilet & wash hands.
3. Wait in a line & agree to take turns.
4. Listen quietly to someone read a story.
5. Show helpfulness to peers when they ask for help.
6. Be able to work alone on a task without distracting others.
7. How to control emotions when frustrated, most of the time.
8. Name & recognize letters of the alphabet.
9. Basic shapes & colors.
10. Name, address, & phone number.

Source: *Going to School*,
Dr. Craig and Dr. Sharon Ramey

Gardening in the Heat

prepared by Wayne Porter, Area Horticulture Agent - Meridian

New comers to the Deep South from cooler parts of the country are truly shocked at just how hot it gets here during the summer. The heat & humidity are oppressive not just during the day, but also during the sultry nights. The high temperatures & humidity can last for months testing natives as well as the newcomer's patience & air conditioning.

The summer heat is tough on plants too. For your garden plants to survive, choose the toughest plants adapted to the southern zones. Colorado blue spruce or Jersey blueberries belong in those states, not Mississippi. Even so, your local plants might need some help to survive & prosper. Following are some tips on keeping your garden in top shape through the summer with a minimum of time and effort.

1) Keep plants mulched. You probably already know of the many benefits of mulch. Keep the mulch replenished in the heat. Use your old newspapers & grass clippings.

2) Keep weeding. Here is a fast, easy way to recapture weed-infested areas of your garden. Wet the soil thoroughly. Tall weeds may need to be mowed before wetting the soil. Place a 4-sheet thick layer of newspaper over the weeds covering the entire row up around your garden plants. Wet the newspaper to hold it in place & cover with leaves or hay... free mulch & recycling in one operation.

You can even come back a few weeks later & plant transplants or larger seeds like beans or okra through holes in the newspaper. Sprinkle a handful of soil or compost over the seeds & then water. You will be amazed how well they grow.

3) Add organic matter. Vegetable gardens not in production can benefit from an addition of manure & other organic matter this summer. This material will decompose rapidly & be ready for fall planting. Southern peas make a great, edible summer cover crop for building the soil & providing food. The pea vines can be mowed & tilled into the soil as soon as they are through producing peas.

4) Let the hot sun work for you by tilling unused areas of the garden & cover this with clear plastic. Leave covered for 2-3 months. This will kill nematodes, weed seeds, & disease organisms.

5) Water deeply. Irrigate the soil deeply & infrequently rather than giving plants a light sprinkling each day. This requires 1-1.5 inches of rain or irrigation.

How much is an inch? Catch your sprinkler water in a tuna can. It is one inch deep. Overwatering can be equally devastating, especially when drainage is poor. Poorly drained, soggy soil conditions combined with hot weather can wipe out a plant in a matter of days.

6) Evaluate plants. Look at your landscape late in the day. Plants looking wilted or sunburned (check hostas & hydrangeas), although well watered, may be in too sunny a location or receiving too much late-day sun. Make notes on which plants to move this winter.

And last but not least, 7) Take care of yourself. Drink plenty of water when working outdoors. The hot, humid weather can be dangerous if you work outdoors during mid-day. Try to schedule your work times to early morning or late afternoon. Use sunscreen with at least a SPF 15 rating & avoid being out in the sun during the heat of the day.

Source: *Green Flash - News for Horticulture People*, Vol. 1, Issue 3, July-Sept. 2010

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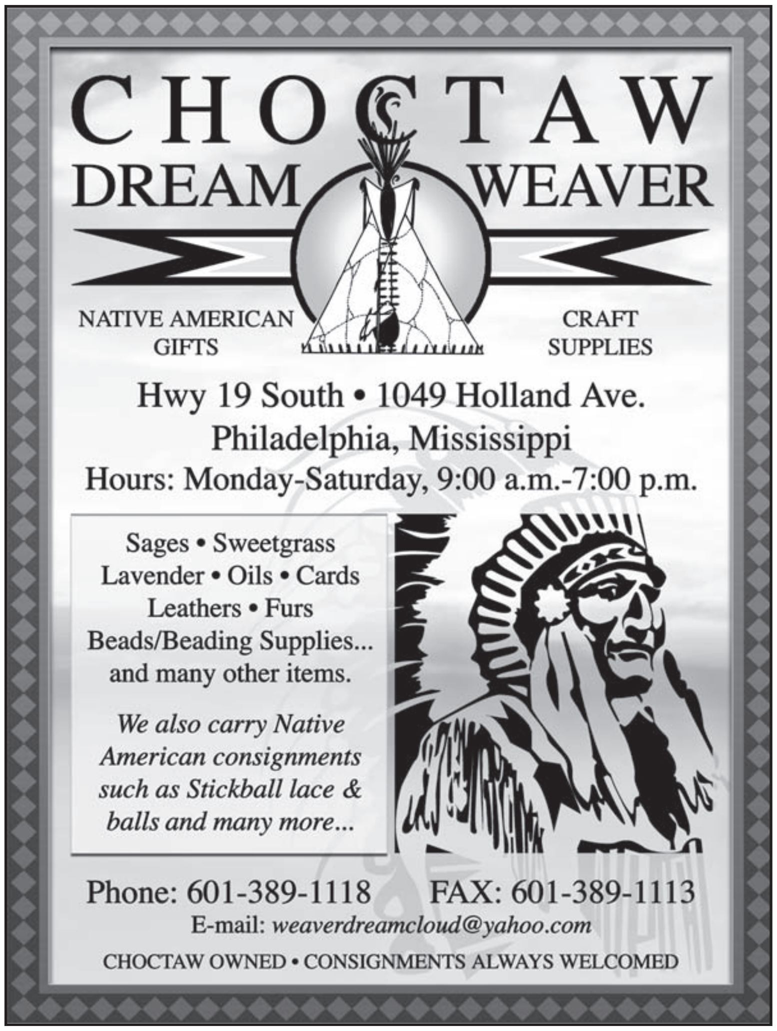

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Late Summer & Fall Vegetables

prepared by Wayne Porter, Area Horticulture Agent - Meridian

It is not too late in July & early August to transplant tomatoes & for fall production.

The heat-set varieties that have produced well in recent trials are Sun Leaper, Bella Rosa, Sun Master, & Sun Chaser, Redline, Solar Set & Heat Wave II.

These varieties have the ability to set some fruit in high temperatures, allowing the fruit to mature before cool weather.

You can also plant okra, bell peppers, southern peas, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupes, pumpkins, & watermelons at this time.

If you grow cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, or collards from seed you can start planting them in late July to transplant in August-September.

Turnip, mustard, & lettuce can be planted in August & September.

In starting a garden at this time of year keeping it properly watered is a must. Under the hot, dry conditions of late summer & fall you should apply 1 inch of water to your garden every 5 days. As the weather gets cooler the interval can increase to once a week.

Be aware that there will be a lot of insects to deal with in the fall garden. Scout your garden twice a week for these pests. Make sure you have your sprayer & insecticides ready to go.

Source: *Green Flash - News for Horticulture People*, Vol. 1, Issue 3, July-Sept. 2010

MOOD SHIFTER

Thoughts hangin' inside radios trap you, fevers out uncontrollable rivers. Hidin' a popular painful yoke, bindin' itself, reachin', taken heart desires above & 'yond. Joyful omens deserve you, strange opal lilt of music offerin' numbness. Alterin' new delightful moments across nether years, movin' over relaxin energy. Live upon verses until sound origin nevigates delicate advanced decisions.

MOOD SHIFTER

Catch a wave of
frequency, massage your
mind. -ISSI

Congratulations...

Congratulations to the Diamond Girls for winning the end of the season tournament June 17-19. We're so proud of you all for your victory. Also, congratulations to Chata Ohoyo for winning the tournament also, from the coaches & parents. **RIGHT**, *Congratulations to our girls, Kayla & Tiara "Shorty" Joe. Kayla played with Chata Ohoyo & won that division coached by Ronald Billy & Shondria Chickaway. Tiara played with the Diamond Girls & won that division coached by Mike Jackson & Monica Sam. Kayla & Shorty, we love you both very much & are very proud of ya'll for your victory, from mom & dad, Bran, Adam Jr., Aven, Grandma Sam, & the kids.*

In Memory

STEVE BILLY

Funeral services for Steve Billy, 70, were held Saturday, June 26, 2010, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Pastor Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial followed in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Billy passed away June 24 at Hospice in His Hands in Madden.

Born in Leake County, Miss., Billy moved with his family to Chicago. He later settled in Irving, TX, with his first wife, Ludie Ann Johnson, & raised a family. He worked as a machinist for the Wonder Bread Company of the Continental Bakery for over 26 years. He then retired to Carthage, Miss., where he enjoyed fishing & gardening.

He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior in Feb. 2007.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lee Billy & Henrietta Chitto; & an infant

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sister.

Survivors include wife, Mary Denson Billy; daughters, Sharon Gibson & Sandra Abbott; step-daughter, Tina Scott; a son, Kenny Ray Billy; sisters, Lula Feazelle, Lois Hernandez, Mary Bell, & Sarah Walker; brothers, Robert Lee Billy, Andrew Billy & Collins Billy; four granddaughters; two step-grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews & relatives.

MARY JANE BEN

Funeral services for Mary Jane Ben, 74, were held Saturday, June 26, 2010, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. The Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery in Standing Pine. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Ben passed away June 24 at Hospice in His Hands in Madden.

She enjoyed cake decorating, sewing & taking care of her grandchildren.

She attended boarding schools in Pittsburg & Arizona. She graduated from Sequoyah High School in Tehlequah, Okla.

She worked as cafeteria manager for Choctaw Central High School, Pearl River Elementary School & Red Water Elementary School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim Wickson & Susan Davis Wickson; sister, Noleen Billie; & brothers, Dempsey Shoemake, Laymon Shoemake, Reuben Shoemake, Ollie Wickson, & Kelly Wickson.

Survivors include her husband, Harrison Ben; daughters, Gwen Ben, Karen Adams & Marion Sockey; sons, Timothy Ben, Gary W. Ben and Gregory Ben; brothers, Tommy Wickson & Mack Wickson; nine grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

TOMMY GENE DENSON

Funeral services for Tommy Gene Denson, 55, were held Saturday, July 3, 2010, from St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Denson passed away July 2 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He took great pride in his Choctaw tradition. He enjoyed Choctaw social dancing during his younger years & later became a chanter & drummer.

He served as a Choctaw Police officer, teacher's aide, & then a teacher at Conehatta Elementary School before retiring to take care of his mother in 2008. His hobbies included fishing, hunting & farming - all in which he took great pride in.

He was preceded in death by his father, Hendricks Denson; brothers, John Fred Denson & Billy Joe Denson; & a sister, Lucille Denson Mack.

Survivors include his mother, Susan Denson; nieces, Helen Farmer of Bogue Homa, Sindy Lewis, Sanpella Jefferson, both of Carthage, Toniya Denson Lay, Wadessa Chapman, both of Conehatta; two nephews, Dudley Denson of Carthage & Geno Mack of Forest; & a host of great-nephews, nieces, relatives, & friends.

CAROLINE WILLIS MORRIS

Funeral services for Caroline Willis Morris, 65, were held Tuesday, July 20, 2010, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in the Pearl River Community. The Rev. Tim Tubby officiated.

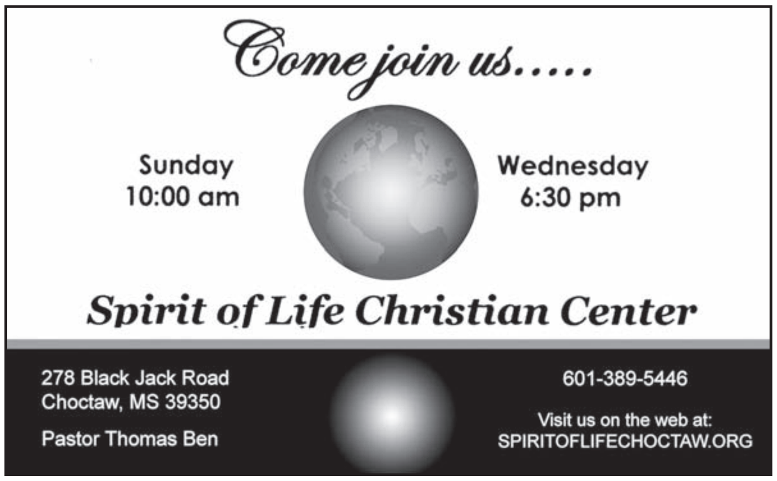
Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Morris passed away July 16 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was employed with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as a Work Adjustment Counselor for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program since 1976. Loving work associated with her church, Hope Indian Baptist Church, & spending time with family & friends were her favorite past-times. She was always known to be kind, generous, loving, & loved sharing funny stories.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude Yates Willis & Gladys Mae Tubby Willis; brother, Gillis Willis; & sister, Norma Jean Willis.

Survivors include her children, Rae Nell Vaughn, Billie Myrle Hockett Jr., Christina Morris Skelton, & Gregory Elliot Morris; seven grandchildren; sisters, Annie Sue Noah, Marilyn Willis, Sandra Kay Weaver, Vanessa Pam McMillan, Jennie Willis Roa; a foster sister, Florence Hodges; brothers, Hubert Willis, Hulon Willis, Travis Willis, & Paul Jefferson; aunts, Susie Jane Willis & Bessie Wilson; uncles, Roy Smith & Billy Smith; grandmother, Gracie Smith; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins; & a special friend, Richard Thompson.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"Born to Overcome"

by Pastor Thomas Ben

As long as we live in this world we will continue to have tribulation. Many run from it and choose to turn to everything else but God. Doing it this way, they find themselves in more trouble and more pain. As long as we live in this world we will encounter trials and tribulation. However, there is way for us to live that will cause us to overcome the pressures of life.

To overcome means to be successful against difficulties or disadvantages; to conquer a problem; to win in a conflict or competition, in spite of obstacles. A brief history:

In the beginning (Genesis 2:7-17), man was sinless and lived in the Garden of Eden. His duty was to keep up with the garden. He had provision and everything, the perfect world. The only condition was to obey God. When he chose to disobey, that's when sin, sickness, poverty, lack and TROUBLE came into the world. This is when Adam became his own god. He started to do things his own way, apart from God, and kept falling short of overcoming things in his life. For 6000 years, man has become his own god and not trusting God to help him.

In John 16:33 (Amplified Version), it says, "…*In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]*

God provided a way for us to be overcomers and that was through His son, Jesus Christ, not through rituals and religion. When you believe and receive Him as Lord and Savior and trust Him on a daily basis He will teach you to overcome whatever you may struggle with. Jesus has already overcame what you are trying to overcome so join the millions that have made this decision to believe, receive, and trust Him. When you make this decision, you will be born again. From there on God will see as a person that is, "BORN TO OVERCOME".

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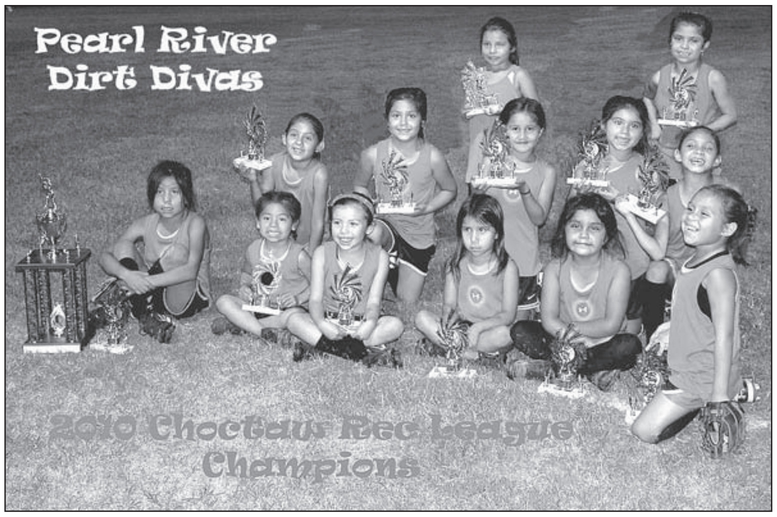
McMILLANS PLACE IN RACES

Congratulations to Jacob & Coby McMillan for placing first & second in their age divisions in the following races: Heart of Mississippi on May 15 (Carthage 5K); Red Hills Festival on May 29 (Louisville 1 Mile); and the State Games of Mississippi on June 19 (Meridian 5K). We are proud of you! From all of us.

Cubs T-ball
2010 Choctaw Rec League Champions

Cubs celebrate a successful season

Congratulations to the Cubs T-ball team for winning the 2010 Choctaw Youth Recreation League championship. Team members include, front row from left, Cruz Ben, Chip Grisham, Tim York Jr., Malahta Ben, Brodie Ben, Quincy Farmer; back row, Logan Lyons, Bruce Steve Jr., Peyton Mingo, DeMarquez Jim, Kordell McMillan, Eli Joe, & Jordan Truss.



RIGHT, Dirt Divas go undefeated in 2010

Congratulations to the Pearl River Dirt Divas team for winning the 2010 Choctaw Youth Recreation League championship. Team members include, front row from left, Bo Thomas, Emi King, Sydney Nickey, Kierston Thomas, Tasheena McMillan, Sierra Cook; middle row, Carly Keats, Crystal Roth, Iyana Anderson, Daylynn Mingo, Hamaya Fielder; back row, Hunter Farve & Tenly Grisham.

RIGHT, Bad Bears win championship

The Bad Bears recently won the 8-Under coach pitch division championship of the Choctaw Youth Recreation League. Pictured right, kneeling, are (last names unavailable) Ethan, Cameron, Christian, Cody, Micheal Jr., Manning, Diaz, Dregon, Jerrick; back row, Hamilton, Rodger, Earl, & Mike.

BAD BEARS CHAMPIONS 2010

TEAM 2010 WINS GOLD

Team 2010 won gold medals in the B Division of the 4-person volleyball competition at the State Games of Mississippi held on June 26. The event, held at the old John Moss Field in Meridian, brought players from across the state to vie for a chance at gold, silver or bronze medals. Team 2010 played a total of six matches of 25 points each using a rally scoring system (the same system used by the AVP tournaments all over the U.S.). Pictured above from left are team members Colton Dooley of Meridian, Hester Allen of Choctaw, Stuart McGowan of Collinsville, Jeffrey Rhett of Meridian, & Chuck Dooley of Meridian. Allen & McGowan also teamed up & competed in the 2-person competition & walked away with bronze medals. Congratulations TEAM 2010!

SOONER MAGIC

The Choctaw League's Sooners won the 2010 Native American Youth Organization's 12-Under Baseball Tournament at the Poarch Creek Reservation in Atmore, Ala., on July 16-17. They did it the hard way - coming through the losers bracket, playing four straight games & defeating the Florida Seminoles twice in the finals. Justin Tubby was the hero of the game as he cleared the loaded bases to score the winning run, with two outs, last at bat, & two runs down. The team would like to thank everyone who helped them, especially parents & grandparents, during their fund raising efforts to make the trip. Pictured above, kneeling from left, are Griffy Willis, Justin Tubby, Jordan Henry, Ko Ko Kennedy, C.J. Ben; back row, coach Wayne Gentry, Brice Billy, Cade Lilly, KeShayn Wesley, Dillon Nickey, Brian Gentry, & coach Waylon Wilson.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 6th Birthday to Ms. Jada Brooke Bell! With Love, from Mom, Dad, Angelina, Elias, Adam, Benjamin, Grandma, & Craig.

Happy 9th Birthday to Ayshah Sherelle Frazier on Aug. 29, from Mommy! “I love you Big Girl! Enjoy your birthday!”

Happy 6th Birthday to Arral Ivan Frazier on Sept. 15, from Mommy! I love you bebe! Have fun!... also to Kenisha Layne Frazier. I love you too baby girl, from Mommy.

Happy 11th Birthday to my son, Jayden Elliott Shoemake, on Sept. 24, 2010. “I will always love you, son, no matter what!” From your dad, Jay Shoemake... also, Happy Birthday to my lil’bro Mitch B. Shoemake on Sept. 24, 2010. God will keep you safe! With much respect, Jay Shoemake.

Happy Birthday to our grandkids, Anakin York “Oate Beh” & Eliza York “Iyzer Jane” on June 6, 2010. Both might not be babies, but you still are to us, from your Mamo & Papo York & the rest of the family.

Happy 3rd Birthday to Karla Maria Sanchez on July 24, from Mom, Dad, Darisa Tubby, Jaylyn Tubby, Alex Bell, Destini Tubby, Kayzlynn, Neveah Robinson. Happy 4th Birthday to Alana Faith on July 29, from Mom, Dad, Darisa, Jaylyn Tubby, Alex Bell, Destini Tubby, Karla Sanchez, Kayzlynn & Nevaeh Robinson.

Happy 18th Birthday to Beaudie Nicole (Ko-Ko) Denson on July 22, 2010... Happy 22nd Birthday to our cousin Brian Keith Comby on July 19, 2010. We miss you... Happy Belated Birthday to our uncle, Mike (Buk-Shin) Sockey, from your nieces & nephews in S.P.

Happy 3rd Birthday to LaDainian Tubby on Aug. 13, from Mom, David, Davian & Mylee. We love you “Danger.”... Happy Birthday to my big brother, Roy C. Tubby, on Aug. 27, from your sis, Erica... Happy Birthday to Jeremiah Mingo Jr. on Aug. 29, from Erica, Dainian, Davian, & Mylee. We love you & miss you “Fatboy.”... Happy Belated Birthday to Dreydon Tubby on July 26, from Auntie Erica.

Happy Birthday to Janice Williamson on Aug. 6.

Belated Birthday to Shelby Mingo on June 13. She turned 17... Happy Birthday to our mom, Paige Mingo, on July 10. She turned ??... Happy Birthday to Isley Mingo & Dianne Grant on Aug. 19, 2010. Isley turns 7 and Dianne turns 41.

Happy 25th Birthday to Vera Ann on Aug. 15. Happy Birthday, Bera, from Arman Jefferson.

Happy Birthday to Kyle “Piti” Wilson on July 23, from your favorite cuz “Bigwil.”... Happy Belated Birthday to Kaily Keit on April 1 & to Azarie Cole on May 24, from your Aunt “Bigwil”, also from your mom “Kdogg.”

Happy Belated Birthday to Francisca Cotton on May 25. Happy Birthday to Sally Tubby on July 28, from “Bigwil.” Happy Birthday to Niko Dixon on July 26, love always from N. Lyne.

Happy 12th Birthday to Brandon Scott Ellis. We love you so very very much. Love always from Mama & Brock, Katie, Paw & Nan, Big Nannie, Pa-Charles, & Uncle Ray.

Happy 15th Birthday to Melody Juanita Willis on Aug. 28, with lots of love from Mom, Dad, Maverick, Linda, Olivia, Bethany, John III, & Rick!

Happy Belated Birthday to Mr. Chad E. Johnson & Happy 4th birthday to Mr. Bryson Devontae Jim. We love ya’ll, from Sexxy Bear & Clyme.

Happy Belated Birthdays to Boog, Hayden & Isley in June & Cal, Noah & Dom in July. Much love from all of us.

Happy Birthday & Happy Retirement, Joy. Much love from all of us.

Happy Birthday to Jr. on Aug. 10, Nick on Aug. 18 & Laura on Aug. 28. Much love from all of us.

Happy 1st Birthday to Brodie Anthony McMillan on Aug. 18. We love you, from your grandparents, Pat & Adrienne, Uncle Sean, Auntie Reese, & Mommy & Daddy.

Happy 19th Birthday Sean on July 22. With love from Mom, Dad & Reese.

Happy 12th Birthday Reese on July 29. You’ll always be our baby, no matther what age you are. Congratulations on your team’s victory at NAYO. We will always be your fans - Mom & Dad.

Happy 23rd Birthday Ben on Aug. 11, with love from Pat, Mom, Sean, Reese, Kim, & Brodie.

Happy Birthday to Kendrick & Shamicka in July & to Gramma Ann & Bozo in Aug. Sorry if we forgot somebody. There’s just too many. With love, Pat, Adrienne, Sean, & Reese.

Happy Belated 15th Birthday to my son, Craig Nickey, on July 30. Look at how you’ve grown! You are truly a blessing to me and others. Be yourself. Love, Mom.

Happy Birthday to Gloria Williams on Aug. 29. You’re a great sister! God Bless you. Love, Sandra.

Happy 5th Birthday to Kacie Sheraine Wallace on July 11, 2010. We love you baby girl! From Mom, Malaina & Daddy... Happy 5th Birthday Keshahn Wallace on July 9, from Rachel, Malaina & Kacie... Happy Birthday to a wonderful friend, Daphne Gail Vaughn, on July 20, 2010, from Rachel, Malaina & Kacie.

Wishing a Happy 18th Birthday to Nicholas & 15th Birthday to Hunter on July 31. Love, Dad.

Happy Anniversaries

Happy 28th Anniversary to our parents, Ricky & Mary Helen Denson, on July 11, 2010, from your kids, Julie, David, Emery, Marie, Ricky, Jr., Nicole, Cinda, & grandkids.

Happy 35th Anniversary to Mark & Bessie Wallace on Aug. 4.

Happy 11th Birthday to Immanuel “Mayo” Jimmie on July 23, love from Mom, Dad, Elias, Lanie, Daneon, & the rest of the family... & Happy ?? Birthday to Skyler Jimmie on July 15, from Dad, Deb, Elias, Mayo, & the rest of the family.

To a wonderful & special big sister, Mary John, Happy Birthday on Aug. 1. Have a blessed day & many more, from your sister & family.

Happy Birthday to our papo, Jimmy Morris, on Aug. 9, from us (Ray kids). We love you & have a good birthday from Brekaitya, Danny, Rodney Jr., Delissia, & Bentley Ray.

Happy 14th Birthday to Rodney Farve on Aug. 15. We love you! From Mom, Dad & Jessica.

LEFT, *Happy 21st Birthday to Ryan Kyle Isaac on July 5. We love & miss you! From Mom, Dad, Renee, Ty, Grandma & Grandpa Starr, Grandma & Grandpa Isaac, family & friends. He is currently serving in Afghanistan with his unit 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines.*

LEFT, Happy 11th Birthday to Jayshun Thomas on Aug. 13. We love you! From Mom, Dad, Leah, & Adarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUNTIE!

Happy Birthday to the Greatest Aunt in the World, Gloria Williams on Aug. 29. Thank you for always being there for me. Love, Craig.

Happy 1st Birthday to Kinleigh Brooke Farmer on Aug. 8! We love you! Always from Mama & Daddy, Mamo & Papo & Cousin Channel, Mamo Stell & Uncle X, Uncle Saiah, Auntie Gonz & Cousin Jaliah, Mamo Willie, Cousins Brandy & Foy & Uncle Jo! Big hugs & kisses from your big sister Tatum.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KENDRICK!

"A DOUBLE BLESSING FROM GOD"

On Aug. 10, 2001, Samuel Jay & Belinda had a baby boy. Being born on my birthday to me was a gift. About 9 years later, I would come to be tried by fire (I Corr 3:13). "You never know til you been there." He & his siblings have been the pillars to help me coming thru the fire of my life! The Bible says, "Healing is the children's bread" (Matt 15:22-28). Children are healing to families as well. Kendrick was about 5 years old, I was still calling him Baby. He said to me, "I'm not baby, I'm Kendrick Dwight Wesley," even tried to spell his name to me. But I said to him no matter how grown up you get to be, you'll always be my baby & my birthday present. Kendrick recently said to me, "Grandpa, Aug. 10 is our birthday ain't it." On our birthday, we're going to tell each other Happy Birthday.

HAPPY 9TH BIRTHDAY KENDRICK DWIGHT WESLEY!

With love from Grandpa Clay Wesley Sr. & the rest of the family.

LEFT, Happy 55th Birthday to Clay Wesley Sr. on Aug. 10. With love from your family.

LEFT, *Happy 8th Birthday to "Da Twins" Will & Dori. From Mom, Anna, Doug, Mikki, & Grandparents.* **RIGHT**, *Congrats go out to Native Angels for winning the 8-Under Girls division & to Mikki & Dori for playing their best. Great job girls!*

Happy 17th Birthday to Doug on Aug. 1, from Mom, Anna, Mikki, Will, Dori, & Grandparents... Happy Belated Birthday to Daddy & Grandpa Sonny York on July 31.

TO A VIRTUOUS WOMAN, WITH LOVE

Dear Mrs. Jim,

As you read this letter, we hope you find it in your heart to know that we are always here for you & think of you each & every day. You give us a true & definite meaning as to what life really means. We are blessed & thankful for having you with us in our family.

You wear a halo of love & fly on wings of glory so that Heaven's blessings surround you with the passing of each day. Memories that are made & the moments that are shared with you are all beloved & truly unforgettable. In our hearts & prayers, we know that you are a divine gift to the family. The same way you bring sunshine into our lives after our rainy days, we want you to know that we are your colorful rainbows. In the midst of life's struggles & hardships, you stand tall & strong for us all. Being the woman that you are, your sincere characteristic traits are of high quality.

Thank you for all these years of happiness that you have brought into our lives. We love you more today than we did yesterday but not as much as tomorrow. The sparkle in your eyes bring about a reflection that shows how much of a courageous & godly woman you are. You make this family complete & full of the finer things in life.

On your birthday, we want you to have a smile on your face & without any worries. We pray that you are uplifted to a place where God will shower you with the love that only a father could give his child. Your faith in God is one that is unbreakable & full of sincerity. Thank you for you.

We all love you from the bottom of our hearts. Happy Birthday to you on Aug. 27, 2010. With love from your husband, Jimmy, sisters-in-law Thelma Barnes, Daisy Jim, Peggy Davis, & brothers-in-law Barry Jim Sr., Davis Jim, & Jared Jim.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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AUGUST 2010

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LEFT, *To Mrs. Frances J. Jim on Aug. 27, 2010. Mom, enjoy your birthday. We love you unconditionally. God bless you Mom. With love from your children - Jeremy, Jermaine & Jerelyn.*

Garcia-Belt Wedding

Erik Garcia & Debra Belt will exchange wedding vows at the Tuskahoma Choctaw Festival in Okla., Sept. 2, 2010, in the Indian Village at 2 p.m. Erik, 24, is the son of Robert & Madie Garcia of the Pearl River Reservation. Debra is the daughter of Laura Belt of Oklahoma City & the late Elvis Belt.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 9 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 SEPTEMBER 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Tribe observes third Nanih Waiya celebration

Officials, guests and members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians gathered on Nanih Waiya Day atop the Nanih Waiya cave site in Winston County to commemorate the anniversary of the restoration of the Nanih Waiya mound and cave site back to the Tribe.

Hundreds attended the Third Annual Regaining and Embracing Our Mother Mound Nanih Waiya Celebration on Friday, August 13, 2010, to commemorate the signing of the official transfer of the deed on Aug. 8, 2008.

Nanih Waiya Day, an official Choctaw holiday proclaimed by Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and all 17 members of the Choctaw Tribal Council in 2008, is observed annually on the second Friday of August.

Denson, along with the tribal council, rescinded Columbus Day as a holiday to give the Choctaw people an appropriate time to celebrate the return of lands considered sacred.

Chief of Staff Barry McMillan served as emcee and members of the Choctaw Color Guard presented the colors.

The 2010-2011 Choctaw Indian Princess, Mahlih Rene Vaughn, performed the National Anthem in the Choctaw language.

Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. offered the opening prayer and asked the audience for a moment of silence for Mrs. Linda Farve, former Pearl River representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council for 16 years. Farve, 60, passed away on Aug. 10.

"Our prayers are with her family today. I ask each of

see NANIH WAIYA, pg. 4

From left, Choctaw Indian Princess Mahlih Rene Vaughn, First Lady Lena Denson and Mi̱ko Beasley Denson watch the performance of ***Chahta Aleha Anowa - Choctaw Journey*** *atop the Nanih Waiya cave site on Friday, Aug. 13.*

Nanih Waiya postcard now available

A postcard of the Nanih Waiya Mound in Winston County, Miss., is now on sale in the Choctaw Museum Gift Shop. For more information, call (601) 650-1685.

2010 SOLAR CAR RACE WINNERS

Members of the Choctaw Central High School Solar Car Project Team include, kneeling from left, Kursten Watkins and Trisilla Willis; standing, OTC teacher Joey Long, Josh Farmer, Chris Watkins, Zach Renville, OTC teacher Frankie Germany, Tasha Laird, & OTC Principal Liddia Hughes.

SUN WARRIOR SHINES!

CCHS Solar Car Team...
National Champions!

by Frankie Germany

While other teenagers were out having fun during the summer months, the Choctaw Central High School Solar Car Project Team was hard at work at the Occupational Training Center.

These students built a battery box in the solar car, wired and rewired the thirty new lithium ion batteries, added a new battery monitoring system, revamped the driver canopy, tested tires, and test drove the vehicle. They programmed the race route into the computer, diagramed the electrical system for scrutineering, and practiced safety maneuvers in preparation for the Hunt-Winston Solar Car Challenge this past July.

The Hunt-Winston Solar Car Challenge is the product of the Winston Solar Education program and includes both track and cross-country races. The 2010 race was a cross-country race beginning on July 18 at the Texas Motor Speedway in Ft. Worth, Texas and ending on July 25 at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

see SOLAR CAR, pg. 11

FROM THE OFFICE OF MI̲KO BEASLEY DENSON

Community Meetings on the Bogue Homa Project

After meeting in May with Tribal members in the Bogue Homa community about the casino project, I wanted to visit the rest of the communities to share details and answer questions. Between the last week of July and the second week of August, I visited the other seven communities.

When I was elected I promised to be an accessible, open leader. Visiting the communities as I have three times now is the most efficient way to do that. The visits were educational, productive and a good chance for me to catch up with old friends as well.

If you weren't able to make it to the meeting in your community, see the Frequently Asked Questions on page 5 for answers to most questions about the project.

I am always looking ahead, on the reservation and off, for opportunities to generate additional revenues for our Tribe. At any given time, my administration is pursuing several potential revenue streams to ensure distributions get paid, Tribal members stay employed and services remain funded.

I am confident that our Bogue Homa casino will be successful. We have done our homework. It is a smart business move and this has been verified by a research firm with extensive experience in gaming operations. If you need further proof, just look at the efforts being made by people outside the Tribe to stop us.

I want to thank all the Tribal members who came out to the meetings. I appreciate and encourage everyone to be involved in the affairs of our

....................continued next page

Miko Denson meets with community members at Crystal Ridge. Pictured right, Mi̲ko Denson, right, has a conversation with David Hickman.

Mi̲ko Denson, center, talks with Renata Lewis, left, and other community members at the Red Water meeting.

LEFT, *Mi̲ko Denson, right, listens to Donnie & Gloria Hickman at the Bogue Chitto community meeting.*

Mi̲ko Denson, right, with Lola Jackson at the Bogue Chitto meeting.

Mi̲ko Denson, right, speaks with Rowena Alex at the Bogue Chitto meeting.

Mi̲ko Denson, right, visits with Nashima Anderson at the Bogue Chitto meeting.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, SEPT. 3, AT 12 NOON.

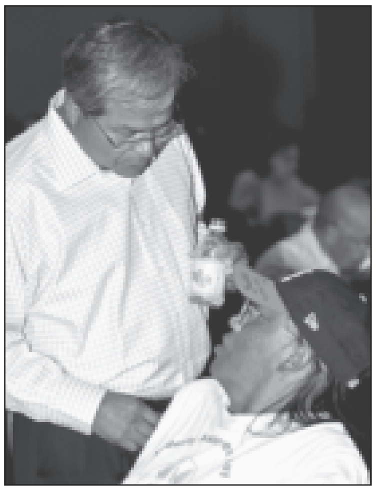
Mi̱ko Denson, right, meets with Tim Ben at the Standing Pine community meeting.

Mi̱ko Denson visits with Una Denson, Norma Long, Mary Billie (Billy), & Regina Taylor.

Mi̱ko Denson shakes the hand of Regina Taylor at the Standing Pine community meeting.

Tribe and appreciate hearing from Tribal members not only when they are supportive but also when they are in disagreement. When other points of view come from sincere concern, are based in fact and aren't based on rumors, misinformation or political differences, discussion of them only makes us stronger as a Tribe.

Revisiting the State of the



ABOVE, *Mi̱ko Denson, standing, speaks with Karl Willis at the Pearl River community meeting.*

RIGHT, *Mi̱ko Denson, right, and Geraldine Anderson have a conservation at the Conehatta community meeting.*

National Economy

All leaders of cities, states, countries and tribes around the world have been keeping a close eye on the state of the US economy. National unemployment levels, consumer confidence and disposable income levels are all factors that directly impact revenues, especially those of gaming enterprises. After the trauma of the housing and stock market collapses in 2007 and 2008, Congress passed and the Troubled Asset Relief Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Economic experts have recently said these programs have had a positive effect on the severity of the recession and, recently, we began seeing signs that a recovery could be near - even though, if it materialized, it would be a long and slow one.

Now, many of the same experts are warning that we may be looking at what is known as a "double-dip" recession. A double-dip recession is a recession followed by a short-lived recovery, followed by another recession. Although President Obama is downplaying the possibility, this economic uncertainty makes it more important for Tribal government and my administration to continue to scrutinize our departments and enterprises for savings and aggressively pursue new revenue.

Tribal government has used this country's economic uncertainty as an opportunity to get our financial house in order. We have reduced debt, cut spending and increased efficiency in almost every department. This is also a good plan for family and individual budgets.

Proud to be Choctaw

On August 13, we celebrated the third annual Nanih Waiya Day in recognition of the anniversary of the return of our Mother mound.

Two years ago, when our Tribe reclaimed this land, I was inspired to commission a play that could bring the story to life for future generations of Chahta and non-Indians as well. **Chahta Aleha Anowa** was presented for the first time at the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. Just as we have created the Nanih Waiya Day Holiday - a tradition that will live on throughout the coming generations - we have created another new cultural legacy with the **Chahta Aleha Anowa**. The performance of the play on Nanih Waiya's sacred ground was very moving and I applaud all the actors and technicians involved in putting it together.

I have faith that Chahta will celebrate this sacred space for generations to come. Our Tribe is one of the most unique cultures in the world and I am proud to be Choctaw.

Karan Gibson of Conehatta picks Mi̱ko Denson from the crowd in the Stealing Partners dance. Freeman Clemons & Judy Isaac chant in the background.

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

There are no Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries to report in the September issue.

NANIH WAIYA .... continued from page one

you to remember her as she did a lot of work for not only Pearl River, but also for the tribe," said Mi̱ko Denson.

Denson said the story of Nanih Waiya is sacred to the Choctaws and it is important to hold sacred the land that has kept the tribe together.

"The reason we get together, my first thought, was a vision to rededicate our life, not only to God, but to rededicate it to ourselves, the Chahta people. This mound is a symbol of that. Long ago, we would have perished, but the strength of our people kept us together. Today, we're 10,000 members strong and as we grow, we need to remember where we come from," Denson said.

Earlier in the program, a performance of **Chahta Aleha Anowa - Choctaw Journey** was held for those in attendance. **Chahta Aleha Anowa** (the places Choctaw walked) gave a glimpse of our people's journey, including the grief of losing our mother mound and the triumphant joy of reclaiming Nanih Waiya. Chahta Aleha refer to Nanih Waiya as the heart of our people.

The play had four acts highlighting the migration, war era and treaties, an 1830-2007 overview, and concluding with the Nanih Waiya celebration.

The play, commissioned by Denson, debuted at the 61st Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on July 15.

"I hope we have this as a reminder to our young people that we struggled to get here, we worked to get here and we have remembered each other to get here. We provided fellowship among our communities to be here and that is so important. For us to be together, to be united, as one tribe - even though we have nine communities including Ripley, Tenn., - we stand as Chahta. And I'm glad to stand before you and say I am Choctaw," proclaimed Denson.

Entertainment was provided by the Elderly Center Traditional Dancers. A luncheon was provided afterwards.

Nanih Waiya, which means "leaning hill" in Choctaw, was ceded to the United States, along with 11 million acres of Mississippi territory when The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was signed Sept. 27, 1830.

Designated a state park, Nanih Waiya was one of several parks that required substantial subsidies for maintenance from the state general fund.

In 2004, the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks was directed to promptly dispose of several parks through closure, lease, sale, or transfer. Nanih Waiya was on that list.

Senate Bill 2732, authorizing the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks to convey the 150-acre park back to the Tribe, was passed & signed into law by Gov. Haley Barbour in 2007.

Nanih Waiya has been cherished by the Choctaws for centuries as their "Mother Mound," the place which is the center of all origin stories.

In one legend, it is the place through which the Choctaw emerged onto the surface of the earth; in another it was the ending place of the migration into what would become central Mississippi. It has always been the figurative heart of the Choctaw homeland.

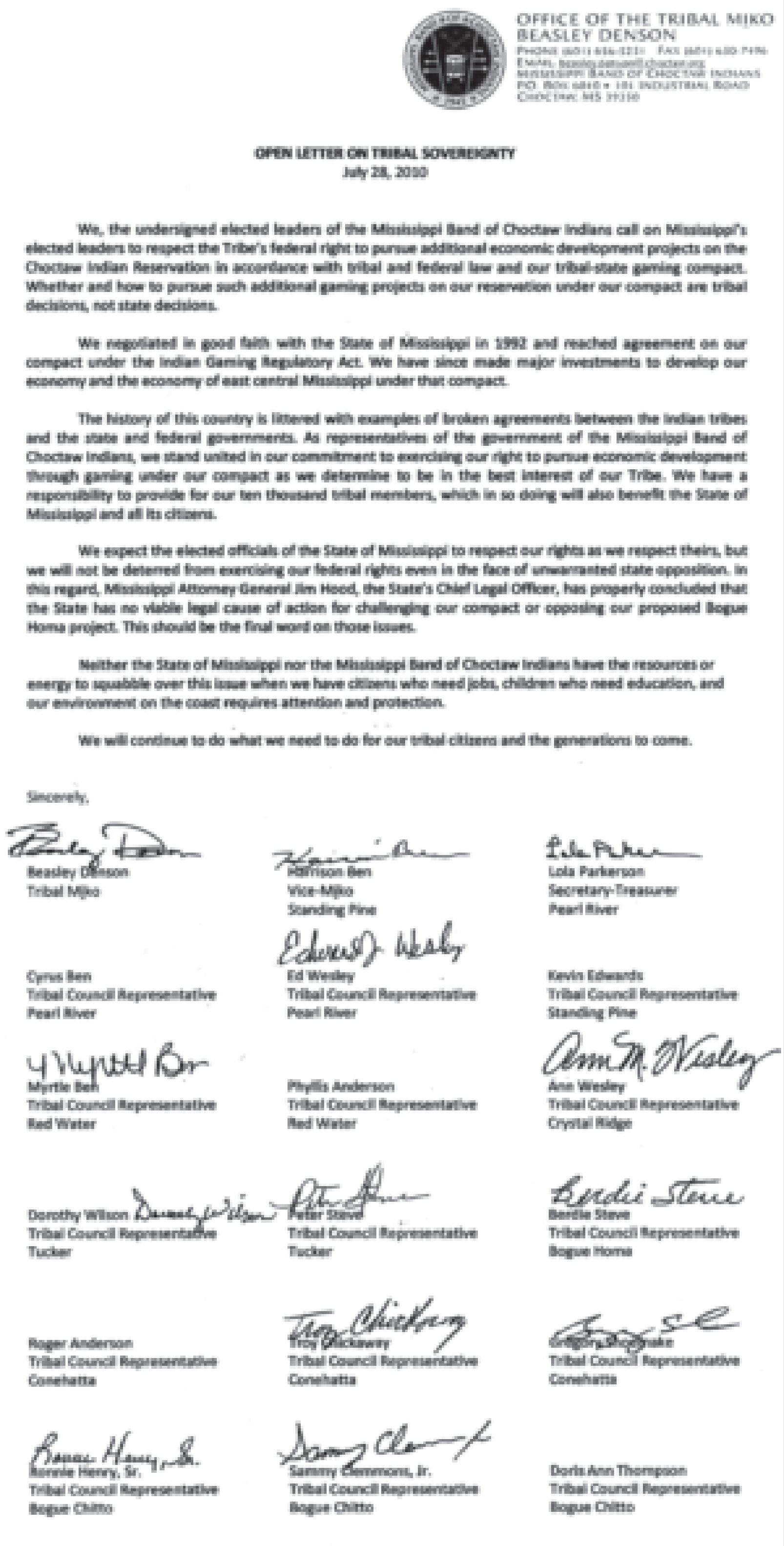
Believed to have been built between 100 B.C. & 400 A.D., the mound is 25 feet high, 218 feet long & 140 feet wide.

It also has major historical significance to all people of Mississippi & Choctaws around the country since it is probably the best documented mound site in the southern U.S., if not the entire country, with published descriptions of it going back to at least 1775, according to tribal officials.

Mi̱ko Denson, second from left, presents a plaque to Lamar Parks and family for their recent sale of land adjacent to the mound back to the Tribe. First Lady Lena Denson, far left, also presented a gift to Martha D. Parks, far right.

Tribal Council Takes a Stand on Sovereignty

Below is a letter circulated to Tribal Council members reaffirming the importance of tribal sovereignty. It was signed by 12 of the 17 Tribal Council members.



OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL MIKO
BEASLEY DENSON
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
P.O. BOX 6010 • 101 INDUSTRIAL ROAD
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

OPEN LETTER ON TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY
July 28, 2010

We, the undersigned elected leaders of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians call on Mississippi's elected leaders to respect the Tribe's federal right to pursue additional economic development projects on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in accordance with tribal and federal law and our tribal-state gaming compact. Whether and how to pursue such additional gaming projects on our reservation under our compact are tribal decisions, not state decisions.

We negotiated in good faith with the State of Mississippi in 1992 and reached agreement on our compact under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. We have since made major investments to develop our economy and the economy of east central Mississippi under that compact.

The history of this country is littered with examples of broken agreements between the Indian tribes and the state and federal governments. As representatives of the government of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, we stand united in our commitment to exercising our right to pursue economic development through gaming under our compact as we determine to be in the best interest of our Tribe. We have a responsibility to provide for our ten thousand tribal members, which in so doing will also benefit the State of Mississippi and all its citizens.

We expect the elected officials of the State of Mississippi to respect our rights as we respect theirs, but we will not be deterred from exercising our federal rights even in the face of unwarranted state opposition. In this regard, Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood, the State's Chief Legal Officer, has properly concluded that the State has no viable legal cause of action for challenging our compact or opposing our proposed Bogue Homa project. This should be the final word on those issues.

Neither the State of Mississippi nor the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians have the resources or energy to squabble over this issue when we have citizens who need jobs, children who need education, and our environment on the coast requires attention and protection.

We will continue to do what we need to do for our tribal citizens and the generations to come.

Sincerely,

Beasley Denson
Tribal Miko

Harrison Ben
Vice-Miko
Standing Pine

Lola Parkerson
Secretary-Treasurer
Pearl River

Cyrus Ben
Tribal Council Representative
Pearl River

Edward J. Wesley
Ed Wesley
Tribal Council Representative
Pearl River

Kevin Edwards
Tribal Council Representative
Standing Pine

Myrtle Ben
Myrtle Ben
Tribal Council Representative
Red Water

Phyllis Anderson
Tribal Council Representative
Red Water

Ann M. Wesley
Ann Wesley
Tribal Council Representative
Crystal Ridge

Dorothy Wilson
Dorothy Wilson
Tribal Council Representative
Tucker

Peter Steve
Tribal Council Representative
Tucker

Berdie Steve
Berdie Steve
Tribal Council Representative
Bogue Homa

Roger Anderson
Tribal Council Representative
Conehatta

Troy Chickaway
Troy Chickaway
Tribal Council Representative
Conehatta

Gregory [illegible]
Tribal Council Representative
Conehatta

Ronnie Henry, Sr.
Ronnie Henry, Sr.
Tribal Council Representative
Bogue Chitto

Sammy Clemmons, Jr.
Tribal Council Representative
Bogue Chitto

Doris Ann Thompson
Tribal Council Representative
Bogue Chitto

BOGUE HOMA CASINO: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise have undertaken plans to develop a satellite casino with 500-700 slot machines and a snack bar in an approximately 27,000 square foot building, which will look similar to the original Silver Star.

BIG PICTURE: WHY NOW & WHY THERE?

1. Why does the Tribe want to build a third casino when the Golden Moon isn't even open during the week?

The Golden Moon was built based on a study done by Arthur Anderson, the now discredited accounting firm associated with the Enron scandal. Analysis done by firms with experience in gaming suggested building more hotel rooms would have been the more profitable option. When the Golden Moon was built and included gaming, the Tribe ended up with more casino than our market could sustain. Only once since the Golden Moon was built have the two casinos been as profitable as the Silver Star was when it was the only casino. Closing the gaming floor of the Golden Moon down during the week has been a successful strategy. Convention meeting rooms and hotel rooms remain open. Revenues and profits are exceeding those of this time last year during a recession, but we need to continue to look for new revenue.

2. Why does the Tribe want to build the casino in Bogue Homa instead of a larger community?

Innovations Group, a consulting firm with gaming expertise, completed two independent, detailed studies. The recommendation from that firm was to locate the casino in Bogue Homa because of the proximity to the interstate and to be able to take advantage of likely customers from Alabama and the gulf coast.

Discussions about the likely profitability of the casino in Bogue Homa have been going on for many years, including during the previous Administration. Tribal government leaders felt like Bogue Homa was the right location for a new property and independent gaming experts confirmed that belief. If this project wasn't going to make money, the for-profit casinos wouldn't be urging Gov. Barbour and their other allies to try and stop us.

3. What will happen to Tribal services if we don't build this casino?

The tribe will face the inevitable need to lay-off government employees. Much discretionary expense has been reduced significantly over the past two years due to the economic slowdown. Any substantial reduction now would affect tribal member jobs and family income. The other source of government outlay is member distributions, which now cost $11 million each year. Add on top of this, the likelihood that Pearl River Resort will not see any significant increase in income distributable to the tribe in the next few years due to the ongoing national and regional economic recession. The best solution is additional income through geographic reallocation of gaming.

4. Will the revenues from the Bogue Homa casino be shared with the entire Tribe or only the Bogue Homa Community?

The revenues generated will go the Tribe's general fund for support of tribal programs.

5. Does the Tribe really have the money to build this casino?

If you factor in the equipment currently owned by the Resort, over half the cost of the project is being borne by the Tribe and less than half financed through bank debt. The funding for the project (estimated to cost $18 million) is being provided, as follows:

a. Approximately $8.0 million from Pearl River Resort cash flow. The resort accumulates cash income that, due to restrictive loan covenants contained in its current term loan debt, cannot be distributed to the tribe.

b. $10.0 million through debt financing negotiated with the bank in the form of a revolving loan agreement, at what is expected to be a favorable interest rate.

c. Almost all the slot machines will be relocated from the Golden Moon to the new facility.

6. I know the Governor and other non-Tribal elected officials oppose this project. Can they stop the Tribe from building it?

No, the Governor cannot stop us from building this casino, although he has done his best to try. Under the Compact, the Tribe has a federally protected right to develop gaming facilities on property held in trust.

Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood issued a memorandum on July 15 in response to the request from Governor Barbour to review the Compact in an effort to stop this project. The Attorney General's memorandum states, "After thorough review, staff has found no viable legal cause of action which would halt the proposed development, either by challenging the validity of the 1992 Gaming Compact between the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians... by otherwise challenging the proposed development itself."

YES, BUT... WHAT ABOUT TRIBAL OPPOSITION TO THE PROJECT?

7. Why won't there be a reservation-wide referendum on this project?

The Choctaw Constitution gives tribal members the right to seek a referendum "to approve or reject at the polls any act of the tribal council." Art. XI, §1. Under the Constitution that right can only be exercised by submitting a petition under a "cover letter... in accordance with a procedure to be established by the tribal council." Art. XI, § 6.

The sponsors who wanted to have a referendum on this project did not timely file a proper sponsor letter with the Office of the Mi̱ko within the deadlines established by the Tribal Council in Ordinance 6. That is why the Tribal Election Committee ruled that there would be no referendum on this project.

8. Did Mi̱ko talk with the families who live in Bogue Homa about their concerns before asking the Tribal Council to vote on this?

Yes, Mi̱ko Denson held a community meeting in Bogue Homa on May 6th to discuss the project. An overwhelming majority of attendees supported the casino, but were concerned about a proposed site that was too close to homes and might present a danger to kids in the community. Mi̱ko Denson requested that the planners review another site and determined that the final location presented to the Tribal Council should be a location off of Choctaw Road, away from homes and play areas.

OKAY SO IT'S BUILT, WHAT NEXT?

9. When will the casino be open for business?

Plans call for the casino to be open in January 2011.

10. Will there be opportunities for Tribal members who want to open businesses around the casino?

Yes. The Tribal Council designated the entire Bogue Homa community as a resort destination and we hope Tribal entrepreneurs will take advantage of the opportunities presented by this project.

11. What kind of jobs will be down there and how can I apply for a job?

As a satellite of the Pearl River Resort, most management functions will be handled out of the Resort offices. There will be a General Manager, as well as openings for security, slot, surveillance and food and beverage personnel. A job fair will be held in October and more details available in the early fall.

12. Will there be table games or only slot machines?

Plans are for this casino to be a Class III gaming facility, which means that table games are allowed. Right now, we are planning to have 500-700 slot machines only.

13. Will the casino serve alcohol?

Current plans do not include serving alcohol at the facility.

Is it possible that Barbour could lose a fight?

This article was originally published in the Newton County Appeal. Reprinted with permission.

By Newton County Appeal Editor Jack Tannehill

If there is one thing that political observers have learned in the last seven years, it is this: do not, never, under no circumstances, in any shape, form or fashion bet against Haley Barbour.

When the man gets the bit between his teeth, he'll go through the front door, the back door, the side door, or over the top to win.

He's done it with Medicaid, the state budget, tobacco taxes... you could even make the argument that he has beaten back a hurricane and at least one tornado.

The new political landscape may require that politicians change with the times to embrace the internet, Facebook and Twitter, but there's still plenty of room for the age-old tried-and-true 'kiss the babies' ploy. And, Governor Haley Barbour is adept as any at obliging parents and grandparents as he walks the grounds at the Neshoba County Fair.

I can't think of a battle he has lost since he moved into the Capitol Street Mansion in 2004.

It really wasn't excessive boasting or crowing Thursday when he said, "Just because Mississippi has a constitutionally weak Governor, doesn't mean Mississippi has to have a Governor with a weak constitution."

He knows how to reward his friends and punish his enemies. He can charm and cajole one minute and has no compunction against climbing up in his bully pulpit the next.

So. I'm not about to sell the Governor short at this stage, but it does look to me like if he thinks he is going to stop the Choctaw Tribe from building a casino in Jones County, he's going to have to load his rifle with a few more bullets.

Mi̱ko Beasley Denson has announced the construction of what he calls a casino on Tribal lands in Jones County. The Tribe bases their ability to build it on the compact they signed with the State in 1992.

Attorney General Jim Hood has said that his office can find no legal basis to block construction.

When Barbour refers to to it as a 'slot parlor', he seems to let the term drip off of his tongue like it's a dirty word you don't use in polite society.

Apparently the Gov. thinks the legal issue for the courts to decide is the definition of "casino" in Martin and Fordice's mind when they sat down at the table.

According to him, when Governor Fordice and Chief Phillip Martin signed the compact in 1992 their definition of a casino was a place not only for gambling, but included additional infrastructure and amenities.

And, Haley cites as evidence the golf course, theater, restaurants and other trappings at the Silver Star as well as those of the 30 state-regulated casinos along the Mississippi River and the on the Gulf Coast.

These are his words: "It (the compact) did not specify all of the requirements for a casino, but when they used the word 'casino' they used it in a way that the policies in Mississippi had already established."

"I think that when Chief Martin and Governor Fordice reached this agreement, in their minds, that's what they were talking about by allowing casinos," said the Governor.

Governors, legislators and private citizens have trudged up the federal courthouse steps for years to try to halt Indian Tribes from opening casinos.

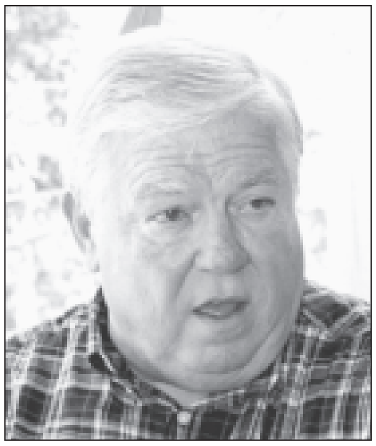
But, with very few and very limited exceptions, the courts almost always uphold the sovereignty of the tribes to do what they want on their own land.

Haley won't say it, but the problem stems not from what the Choctaws want to do today, but the deal that Captain Kirk made 18 years ago.

The compact that Martin got him to sign was about as one-sided as it gets. It provided no state oversight, no provisions for the tribe to contribute to maintaining the roads and bridges that casino traffic would need and no provision for payments or taxes to local governments.

Be that as it may, the State made a deal and it looks like the State is going to have to live with it.

The Governor also makes another argument to halt the work.



Gov. Haley Barbour

He says, "the Tribal Council voted 8-7 to spend $18 million to build a metal building to have a 'slot parlor'. It's not even going to have a restaurant in it. Furthermore it's on an old, inferior, two-lane county road. It has no sewage treatment and insufficient water."

"The first thing I advocate happening is for all the members of the tribe to vote on whether to do this," he said.

That sounds like a slippery slope to me. If the rationale

..........continued next page

Tribal entrepreneurs honored

The Office of Economic Development's Small Business Program is proud to announce the Entrepreneurs of the Year. Shirley & Malcolm's Smoke Shop was voted for full-time business and Clay Wesley's WesCo Corn Products was voted for seasonal business. Each business was presented a plaque for a job well done. The Economic Development Staff would like to congratulate these individuals for making a difference in the Choctaw community. Pictured above from left are Tribal Small Business Coordinator DeeSandra Ben, business owner Shirley Isaac of Shirley & Malcolm's Smoke Shop and Tribal Economic Development Director John Hendrix. Not pictured is Clay Wesley Sr., owner of WesCo Corn Products.

for holding a tribal-wide election is that the the legislative body's vote was close for the Choctaws, then can we assume the same test fits all Mississippians?

In other words if our Senators and Representatives have a close vote in Jackson on school funding, building a new bridge, or Medicaid reimbursements, then will the Governor advocate that we have a state-wide referendum on the issue?

To be sure, the Casino owners on the coast are upset and want this thing killed.

They know it not only will be a thorn in their side the day it opens, but they are scared witless that in time it will be a tremendous success and grow into real, bona-fide competition.

For seven years Haley Barbour has been the house. He usually holds all the cards and plays them with skill and is not afraid to go all in.

But, I think he may need to find someone other than the courts to cover this bet.

Jack Tannehill is Editor and Publisher of The Newton County Appeal. Contact him at PO Box 287, Union, Miss. 39365 or PO Box 37, Newton, Miss. 39345; 601-774-9433 e-mail to jrt@newtoncountyappeal.com

Attention Tribal Members

SDPI Fitness Center

Stay healthy and relieve stress from work by coming to the SDPI Fitness Center!

*A full-time Fitness Attendant is on duty to serve you.

Located between CHI and Early Childhood Administrative Office.

Call for more information:
601.389.6384

Hours of Operation
Mon, Tues, Thurs. and Fri.
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Wed. 10:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Special Diabetes Program for Indians

Census Bureau recognizes tribal programs

U.S. Census Bureau, Tribal Partnership Assistant Cynthia Massey presents a certificate of recognition to Communications Officer Melford Farve of the Choctaw Community News. The U.S Census Bureau acknowledged 30 tribal business partners for their support of the 2010 Census Partnership Program.

The U.S Census Bureau acknowledged 30 MBCI Business Partners for their outstanding support with the 2010 Census Partnership Program. These business were among the top who supported in areas of involvement including donation of event space, speaking opportunities given at meetings, donated air time and news space with media, office space and supplies donated, and assisting in distribution of census materials.

Recognition certificates were given to the following: Robin Allen, Forestry; Glen Billie, Pearl River Boys & Girls Club; Karl Butler, Choctaw Video; Greg Carlyle, Choctaw Central High School; Jeremy Chick away, Choctaw Community Planning Coalition; Tim Comby, Tucker Facility Building; Melford Farve, Choctaw Community News; John Ferguson, Protective Services; Jason Grisham, Natural Resources; Paul Harvey, Pearl River Resort; John Hendrix, Economic Development; Dalton Henry, Division of Schools; Josh Henry, Bogue Chitto Facility Building; Angeline Hickman, Vocational Education Program; Barry Jim Sr., Pearl River Recreation; Mary John, Elderly Activity Center; Sharon Johnson, Red Water Facility Building; Sylvia Johnson, Occupational Training Center; Tony Lilly, Choctaw Loan Program; Julia Lindsey, Employment and Training Department; Barry McMillan, Chief of Staff; Torrie Mingo, Standing Pine Facility Building; Wilma Simpson, Public Information; Betty Sutton, Bogue Homa Facility Building; Clay Wesley, Crystal Ridge Facility Building; Henry Williams, Conehatta Facility Building; Darlene Willis, Diabetes Prevention Program; Jeremy Willis, Choctaw Video; Virginia Willis, 4-H; & Kennith York, Department of Planning.

Youth Healing To Wellness Court to start soon

Healing To Wellness Court (HTWC) is the way Native Americans refer to their application of the Drug Court concept. After measurable success here at Choctaw with the Adult HTWC, established through a grant from the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) - Bureau of Justice Assistance, it was apparent that the effort could be adapted to the youth as well. Another grant was secured in 2009 by Daniel Mittan, Director of Court Services, and Todd Mosley, of Community Development and Planning, to similarly establish the Youth HTWC.

This grant was awarded to the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians from USDOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). This Tribal Juvenile Accountability Grant is for three years and the first year is a planning year. An advisory board has been developed and efforts this year have produced a comprehensive strategic plan which is currently pending OJJDP's approval for full implementation.

Youth Court Judge Kevin Briscoe is excited about the work that has been done. Judge Briscoe said, "From my participation with the Adult Healing To Wellness Court, I could see how easily the same concepts and applications could be made to our work with Choctaw youth. A Youth Healing To Wellness Court will have a great impact on the under-age drinking issues we see from time to time in youth court. I am really encouraged by the potential outcomes."

The Youth HTWC Team - made up of representatives from Court Services, the Attorney General's Office (Prosecution), Choctaw Legal Defense, Choctaw Police, and Choctaw Behavioral Health - will meet once a week with the judge to review progress with each HTWC case.

.............see COURT, pg. 8

First fruits from *Osapausi Amasalichi*

The Osapausi Amasalichi reentry program experienced their first harvest. Cheriena Ben, coordinator, wants to especially thank the hard work invested by the youth participants. They assisted in the construction of the box garden designed by Karla Keats of Natural Resources, as well as the maintenance and initial harvest.

The design is culturally-specific to Choctaw and serves as a reminder that this garden is unique.

Court Services Director, Daniel Mittan, reports that the Choctaw Tribal Court is the recipient of a four-year United States Department of Justice grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Tribal Juvenile Detention and Reentry Green Demonstration solicitation.

The purpose of the grant is to deliver critical services to youth returning to their homes from the Choctaw Youth Justice Center (CYJC) through environmentally sustainable activities and green technologies with a focus on the unique culture of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The Hualapai Tribe from Arizona and the Rosebud Tribe from South Dakota were the other two recipients.

Court Services is working in a partnership with the Choctaw Youth Justice Center (CYJC), Mississippi State University, the USDA-NRCS office here at Choctaw, and other Choctaw tribal programs. The garden is located adjacent to CYJC's Transitional Living Unit.

Elders have also invested time, energy, and expertise to this specific project working with the youth entering back into their homes from the CYJC. A special thanks goes to Mary John at the Elderly Activity Center and to Daryl Tubby. Mr. Tubby shared his expertise in organic gardening and the lessons of how gardening can be used as a metaphor for life in the community.

In a brief ceremony, the youth participants gave squash grown in the garden to Choctaw elders at the Elderly Activity Center. These were the first fruits. One of the traditional values being taught through this program is respect for elders and their wisdom, demonstrated through caring for them in material ways.

This project is not just about teaching gardening techniques, but focuses on the importance of relationships and Choctaw values. Hopefully, the real fruit from this effort will be young people on the right path in life.

If anyone desires to view the garden, please contact Jeremiah Harrison or Bronson Jim at the Choctaw Youth Justice Center (601-663-7903). Visitors are welcome but visits must be scheduled as this is an important part of the facility operations.

The first harvest included squash and were presented to the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center participants.

Pictured above from the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center are, from left, Grace McMillan, Judy Isaac, Mary John, Vera Bell, Shaundareka Samuel, Teresa Chickaway, & Christine Amos.

COURT .... continued from page seven

Participants will report, as determined by phase, to receive incentives (for doing well) or sanctions (for non-compliance). Periodic and random drug screens that are clean serve as a foundation for progressing through the program. Completion results in the charges being dismissed with prejudice.

Daniel Mittan, Director of Court Services, noted, "The success of drug courts and Healing To Wellness Courts has been documented across the country. Not only does it save money in the long run, but people's lives are significantly changed for the better. HTWC is not for everyone. Those that are motivated to make changes in their life - to get back to a clean record - have a chance to achieve it. Participants in the Adult HTWC right here at Choctaw have shared their success stories."

For more information, contact Mr. Mittan or Felicia Comby, coordinator, at Court Services 601.663.7822.

Division of Early Childhood Education news

We have started our new year at the Division of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) & we look forward to working with the new children that have enrolled in our centers, as well as the returning children.

The DOECE has many plans and activities in store for the upcoming year. We encourage our parents to read the notices and memos that come out so that they can be informed of what is going on with the program. We also want to encourage our parents to attend the center monthly parent meetings. This gives everyone an opportunity to share information between the centers and the parents, and gives parents the opportunity to voice any questions and concerns.

If you did not get a chance to turn in an application for your child, it is not too late. Although some centers may be full, a wait list is always maintained. Put your child's application in now so that they can be ready for selection when a vacancy occurs in the center.

The following verifications are required for Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment: Birth Certificate, Certificate Degree of Indian Blood, Social Security Card, Current Immunizations Form 121, TB skin test, Income verification, physical exam, dental exam, and nutrition assessment.

For more information, contact your local early childhood center. We welcome the opportunity to teach your child!

Bogue Chitto Early Childhood, 601-656-7224;

Bogue Homa Child Care, 601-447-4044;

Conehatta Early Childhood, 601-775-3845;

Crystal Ridge Child Care, 662-779-0632;

Pearl River Day Care, 601-656-9221;

Pearl River Head Start,

..........continued next page

Hula hoop game.

Let's limbo!

Sack race time!

601-650-1712;
Pearl River Early Head Start, 601-389-2899;
Red Water Early Childhood, 601-267-9282;
Standing Pine Early Childhood, 601-298-1580;
Tucker Early Childhood, 601-389-2053.

Our Early Childhood employees had the opportunity to attend In-Service training at the Silver Star Convention Center on July 26-29, 2010. We hope they learned new techniques and ideas that can be implemented in the classroom. We look forward to an exciting new school year at the Division of Early Childhood Education.

The DOECE made their yearly selection for teacher of the year within their center, and also support staff of the year. Congratulations to our winners! This proves that the efforts they make to work hard during the school year does not go unnoticed. We are proud of all our staff!

Brittney Lewis, Bethany Johnson, Roy Willis, & Aldreca Lewis participate in an activity.

A group picture of the DOECE employees with the motivational speaker.

SPCC Aretha Truss & Jenna Tubby

Carol Henry & Deborah Wren

Bobby Joe Willis & LaCheryl Curtis

Brenda Vaughn

Dewonna Grayson & Virginia York

Tasha Sam & William Thomas

Ayesha Griffin & Stephanie Wishork

Lisa Gurry & LaWanda Henson

Gloria Dale

Joanne Ben & Cindy Smith

Ann Jim & Lisa Johnson were awarded Center Director of the Year

Jennifer Henry was awarded with Support Staff of the Year

NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Choctaw Expressions

Celebrate American Indian Week

Craft Demonstrations, Kids' Crafts, Social Dancing, Traditional Food, a Pre-Inventory Sale, and a Basket Giveaway

September 22-24, 2010

Sponsored by the Choctaw Museum. For more information, contact the Choctaw Museum at 601-650-1685

The Choctaw Museum

This month the Cultural Preservation Program would like to highlight the Choctaw Museum and Gift Shop.

Since 1982 the Choctaw Museum has operated in the Pearl River community offering visitors a better understanding and appreciation of traditional and contemporary aspects of Mississippi Choctaw life.

The well-versed museum staff makes sure that your experience is informative and comprehensive.

Permanent exhibits include a natural resource exhibit featuring basketry, blowguns and weapons; a stickball exhibit; a dance and traditional dress exhibit; and a government exhibit.

Each month the museum presents demonstrations by local Choctaw artisans.

Serving as a constant outlet for Choctaw crafts people the gift shop purchases the highest quality swamp cane baskets, hickory stickball sticks, handmade beadwork and traditional clothing from local artisans while providing a source for collectors, visitors and community members.

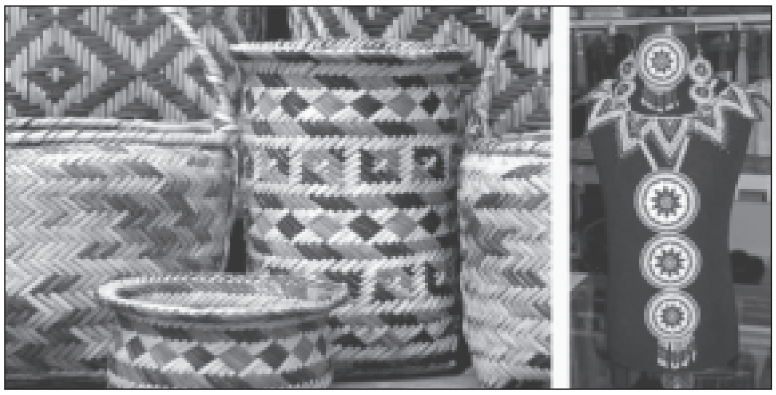
The museum carries a large selection of culturally and historically relevant books and souvenirs including t-shirts, jackets, tote bags, baseball caps, and postcards.

This month on September 22-24, 2010, the Choctaw Museum Gift Shop will be having their annual pre-inventory sale. Jackets, silver and turquoise jewelry, tote bags and more will be on sale.

The Choctaw Museum has recently merged with Cultural Preservation Program and will now be able to promote, protect, and

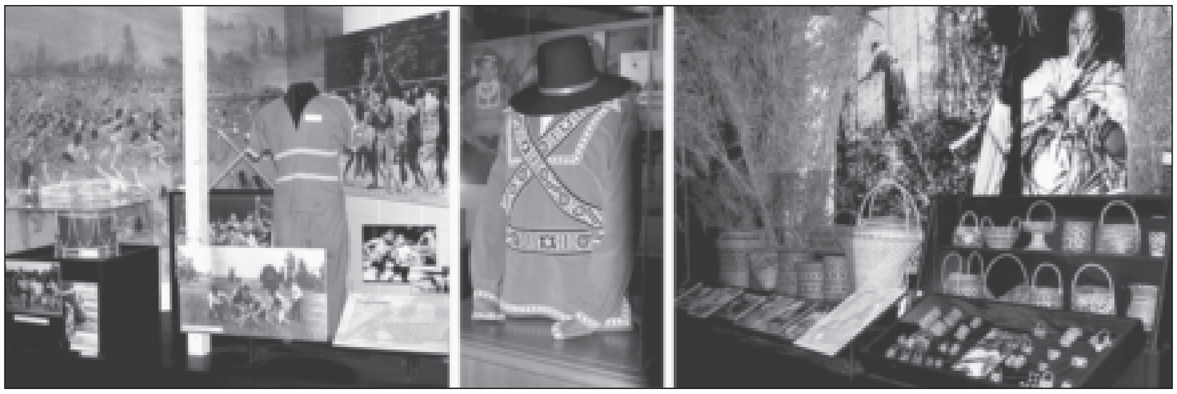
..........continued next page

Choctaw Museum staff, from left, include Martha Ferguson, Evaline Davis, Martha Spencer, Judy Gibson, & Amanda Bell.



Choctaw crafts for sale at the Choctaw Museum.

Each month, the museum presents demonstrations by local Choctaw artisans.



Permanent displays at the Choctaw Museum.

2010 STEVE & LILLY (WILLIS) ISAAC FAMILY REUNION

Saturday, October 9, 2010
Pearl River Pavilion
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For good eating, bring your favorite covered dish! Come meet your relatives that you've seen, but didn't know. Activities will be planned by the committees.

Contact persons:
Elder Thelma Barnes (number unavailable)
Glenda Willis, 601.650.1536
Robert Paul Tubby Sr. (number unavailable)
Maggie Truss, 601.470.8149

Please bring your lawn chairs and pictures to share.
We hope to see you there!

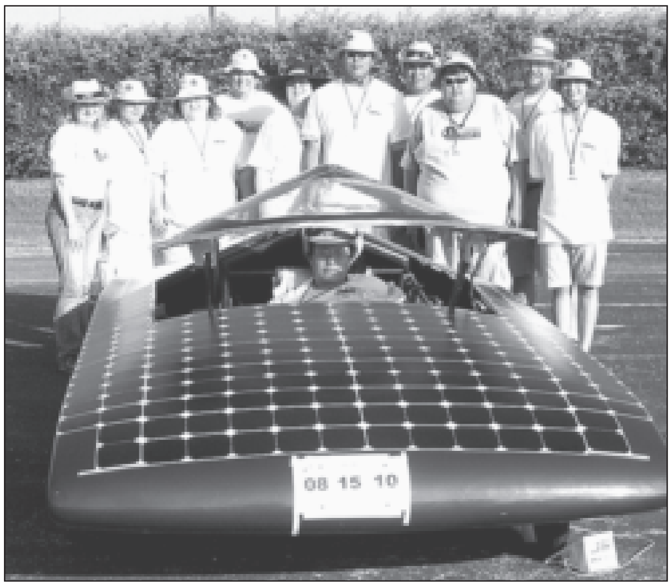
CHOCTAW
WARRIORS

Pictured are pre-inventory sale items in the Choctaw Museum Gift Shop.

preserve the culture of the Choctaw people in association with each of the cultural programs and their vast resources.

If you have never enjoyed the Choctaw Museum before, please come by and visit. Old friends, come see what's new.

SOLAR CAR .... continued from page one



Pictured, standing from left, are Carolyn Hegman of Mississippi Solar (sponsor), Kursten Watkins, OTC Principal Liddia Hughes, Will Hegman (sponsor), OTC teacher Frankie Germany, Zach Renville, Josh Farmer, Chris Watkins, OTC teacher Joey Long, & Tasha Laird. Seated in the car is Trisilla Willis.

A total of 12 solar powered vehicles from across the nation participated in the race. These cars were divided into three divisions - Advanced, Open and Classic. Tushka Hashi III, the CCHS solar car, competed in the Advanced Division.

The concept of working as a team began with the months of work on the solar car and crystallized during the race. Every person had a responsibility and those responsibilities varied daily.

At the team meeting each night, the co-captains, team members, and mentors Joey Long, Liddia Hughes and Frankie Germany made decisions about who had each responsibility for the following day.

The three girls were the drivers, but when not driving, they also had jobs such as safety person, judge liaison, and navigator.

The boys were in charge of safety, judge liaison, auxiliary battery preparation, radios, and general maintenance on the vehicle. By the end of the trip, the team had become such a cohesive unit that the mentors had little to decide; the team took care of it on their own.

These students took ownership of the entire project and race and became mature and responsible young adults. This was only one of the many benefits of the solar car experience.

Tasha Laird, one of the co-captains, said she learned much more than just the science of mechanical or electrical engineering.

"The experiences of meeting the public, speaking to strangers, developing self-confidence, and working as a team are some of the most important parts of the solar car experience. I know this has helped me to prepare for college," Laird said.

During the race, all teams were required to stop at designated towns for a morning break, lunch, and an afternoon break before reaching the daily destination. At these towns, chambers of commerce, clubs and organizations often had water and refreshments for the team as they displayed the cars for the public.

News reporters and radio personalities interviewed the teams. Kursten Watkins and Joey Long were on live radio for approximately 15 minutes at a lunch stop in Hereford, Texas. Kursten impressed the crowd with the confidence and composure of a television anchor woman while on the radio.

Tushka Hashi III received a great deal of attention at each stop due to its aerodynamic design and the fact that it was the first car to reach each destination. As a result, team members were asked all manner of questions about the car and the race.

Zach Renville, Chris Watkins and Josh Farmer all became adept at answering questions while putting kindergarten children into the

..........continued next page

SOLAR CAR .... continued from page eleven

seat of the car for photo opportunities. The students handed out over 600 Tushka Hashi III brochures in five states, informing all who saw the car and read the brochure about the unparalleled solar car program at CCHS and proving the intelligence and expertise of these dedicated young ambassadors for the Tribe.

One reporter was amazed that words like acid battery, lithium ion battery, wattage, amperes, and auxiliary batteries are a part of these students' everyday vocabulary. Just another plus for this program.

Co-captains Trisilla Willis and Tasha Laird and the team of Kursten Watkins, Chris Watkins, Zach Renville, and Josh Farmer fulfilled the team's goal and dream since the car was built in 2007 - to win the race. All the hard work, perseverance, and dedication were rewarded when the race results came in.

The Tushka Hashi III team drove the 853.5 mile race in a total of 24.5 hours with an average speed of 35 miles per hour. They were the only team in all divisions to complete all the miles and with the fastest time of any vehicle in the race, giving them the distinction of becoming the 2010 National High School Solar Car Champions. This honor brings with it the opportunity to participate in the World Solar Car Race, which takes place in Australia in 2011.

Not only did the team win the overall championship, they won the day trophy every day of the race for being the first car to reach the daily destination, the Hunt Award for Engineering Excellence, and an Appreciation Award for Excellent Team Spirit.

Co-captain Trisilla Willis was awarded The Order of the Solar Cell, presented to extremely special people who believe in high school solar car racing and the students who make it happen. These exceptional students represented the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians with pride and honor and deserved all the accolades received.

"This is awesome!" exclaimed Trisilla Willis, co-captain and driver, as she claimed the five foot tall trophy for the team.

"What a great way to end my solar car career," said Willis. She has been a team member for four years and this was her final race. Immediately upon returning to Choctaw, she was off to basic training for the Army National Guard.

Team members and mentors alike agreed that this was the most exciting race they have participated in. The community support shown and the surprise welcome home reception were highlights in an exhausting yet satisfying 14 day trip.

The team is now looking to the future, with trips to visit the Seminole Tribe in Florida to introduce those students to solar energy and robotics, another solar race in Houston, Texas in April, and who knows, maybe even a trip to the Australian outback in 2011!

CC players participate in ECCC team passing contest

Choctaw Central High School football players participated in the annual 7-on-7 Team Passing Competition June 17 at East Central Community College in Decatur. Team members include, seated from left, Djon John, Tavion Bond, Devin Charlie, Alex Lacy, Jennara Bollin, Tobiah Ben; kneeling, Shawn Anderson, Demarquis Wilson, Dalen Wheeler, Craig Dixon, Garrick Stoliby, Andrew Berry; standing, Jayson Wallace, Joshua Farmer, Cody Anderson, Brian Farmer, Monte Farve, & Mageal Cruz. (EC photo)

RIGHT, CC linemen attend ECCC camp

These Choctaw Central High School football players participated in the annual Offensive/Defensive Line Camp June 17 at East Central Community College in Decatur. Kneeling from left are Lonzo Shoemake, Evan Sam, Blake Edwards, Keyshawn York; standing, Rodney Ray, Ricky Thompson, Jonathan Cotton, & Joshua Smith. ECCC football coaches provided instruction. (EC photo)

ECCC announces homecoming honorees

Recipients of various honors to be presented during East Central Community College's homecoming celebration scheduled Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010, on the Decatur campus, were recently announced by Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, executive director for foundation and alumni relations.

Brigadier General Amelia Ellen Kennedy (Class of 1970) of Louisville is the College's Alumna of the Year and William Dunigan "Bill" Bailey (Class of 1946) of Decatur is being honored as Alumnus of the Year.

Selected for induction into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame are Chris Harris (Class of 1976) of Decatur and Dr. Howard Carlton McMillin (Class of 1950) of Carthage.

Also being honored is the late Choctaw Chief Phillip Martin, recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award. Chief Martin attended ECCC in 1957-58.

Reunion groups receiving special recognition include the Class of 1940, Class of 1950, Class of 1960, Class of 1970, Classes of 1979,1980 and 1981, and all Warrior Corps members. The Classes of 1957, 1958 and 1959 will also have their annual reunion during the homecoming weekend and will include the Class of 1960 for the group's dinner meeting scheduled Friday, Oct. 1.

Recognition of award winners will be made at the Alumni Association Luncheon beginning at noon in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

For more information, contact Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, 601-635-2111 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 327. The e-mail address is sholling@eccc.edu.

SYSP participants take part in essay contest

The Department of Employment & Training administers a six week Supplemental Youth Services Program (SYSP) every summer for Native American youth ages 14-21 years old. The purpose of the youth program is to provide supplemental employment & training & related services to Native American youth.

To assist in accomplishing the goals of the program, the Department of Employment & Training sponsored a Choctaw Journey-Chahta Aleha Anowa essay writing contest for the youth participants.

The youth were instructed to attend the Choctaw Indian Fair & write an original essay critiquing the special production called The Choctaw Journey-Chahta Aleha Anowa. The 29 participants competed for first, second & third place.

Essay submission was Friday, July 23. Judges were Richard Golden, Jennifer Thomas & Randy Farve, all of the Adult Education Program. Essays were judged on the content of their papers.

Judges selected the following winners: first place, Mindee Latrice Cotton, $100; second place, Yolanda Willis, $75; & third place, Shenowa Polk, $50.

Congratulations to our winners & yakoki to our judges!

The following are the winning essays.

"The Choctaw Journey had told many interesting stories about our Choctaw people. Mi̱ko and the Choctaw people came to Nanih Waiya. Their Mi̱ko placed a pole on the ground; he and the others looked odd at the cave and said "It was a special place". The next morning he called upon his people and said "this is the end". Nanih Waiya is our "mother mound"; it has a cave inside of it. They say we came out of it, was laid on the ground to dry and others say we came from a distance land.

The treaty was a sad and painful part for the Choctaws. Naholos wanted what we had. During the 1786 and 1830's, our people were trying to keep our land so that we wouldn't have to leave. Our great Chiefs Pushmataha and Apakshanbi stood up for the Choctaws, so we wouldn't have to leave, but they both had died. every time we had signed a treaty, we gave away little of our land.

September of 1830, Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was signed. Chief Greenwood Le'flore and others were forced to sign, we had lost our "Mother mound" and had to leave. we didn't have rights, so we couldn't do anything, but when Franklin D. Roosevelt became president, we had gotten rights. In 1945, we got together and became the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Though things were slowly changing for the better, but during 1975 our constitution changed. In 1975 to 2007, the late Chief Phillip Martin was our chief for twenty-eight years. He had done a lot of great things for us. In 2004, Nanih Waiya was being closed down. It came to the late Chief Phillip Martin's attention and decided to reopen it. After 108 years, our Mother mound was returned to us. A little over thousand people came to celebrate at Nanih Waiya. Nanih Waiya is now our national holiday holiday."

by Mindee Cotton

"The Choctaw Journey was about the triumphs the Choctaws had to go through and how we lost and regained Nanih Waiya, our Mother Mound.

Nanih Waiya is a temple where we, as people, were born. The long journey that the Choctaws have been on came to an end on the Nanih Waiya mound when the stick was standing straight up the next day when Mi̱ko awoke.

Each treaty that the Choctaws signed, signed away a part of our land. The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was brought upon the Choctaws and was forced to sign the treaty. They were threatened if they didn't sign the treaty, and then President Andrew Jackson would go to war against them. Many of the Indian people were moved to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma and that is how we lost Nanih Waiya, our Mother Mound. The few that stayed were beaten, killed and robbed.

Chief Martin decided to reclaim Nanih Waiya. The deed was signed on August 8, 2008.

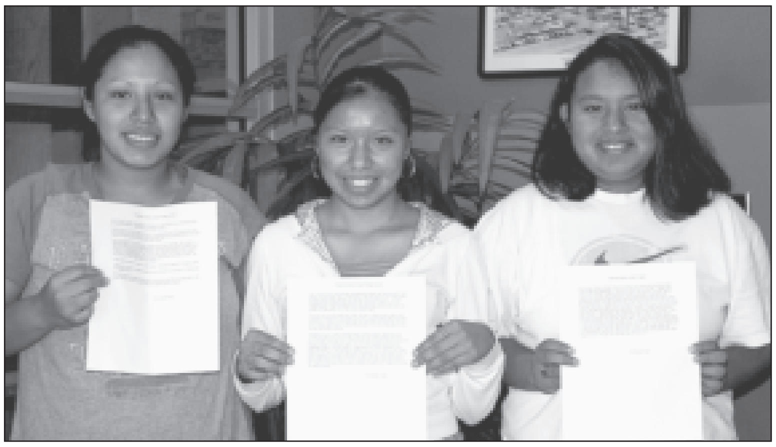
Nanih Waiya became an official holiday for the Choctaws on November 14th, taken place of Columbus Day.

We have gotten our Mother Mound back 178 years later and after everything that we did to get it back, we will not sell nor trade our Mother Mound ever again!"

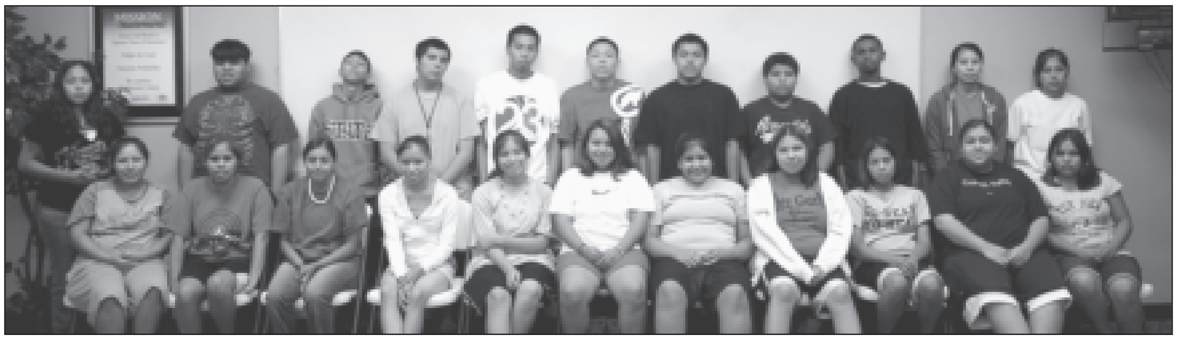
by Yolanda Willis

"The Choctaw Journey is

....see SYSP NEWS, pg. 14



Pictured from left are essay contest winners Yolanda Willis (2nd place), Mindee Cotton (1st place) & Shenowa Polk (3rd place).



Supplemental Youth Services Program participants

ATTENTION CCHS CLASS OF 1980! REUNION TIME!

The 30th Year Reunion of the Class of 1980 is planned for the last home game of the CCHS Warriors on October 22, 2010. If you are a member of the Class of 1980, please let us know if you will be in attendance prior to October 1, 2010. For more information and R.S.V.P., call Melford Farve at:
(work) 601.663.7731,
(cell) 601.562.9470,
or e-mail melford.farve@choctaw.org.

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Websites Available Now.

So show your heart & mind some love and drink MonaVie today.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

Halito! From Conehatta unit staff & members. We are proud to announce a couple of new staff into our program, Demetra Stephens and Marina Smith.

We are still accepting applications for members at the club. Parents, please come in and fill out a new membership application for your child to attend this school year.

Upcoming Events

August 15 - Fourth 9 weeks honor roll members will be taken to the Canal Place Cinemas for their achievement.

August 27 - Teen Night - teen members will be taken to the Back to School Pool Party hosted by the CCPC at the Conehatta Swimming Pool.

September 23 - Torch & Keystone members will be hosting our annual American Indian Day Brave & Princess pageant.

September 25 - Annual Day for Kids event in Choctaw.

Holidays

We will be closed on the following holidays:

September 6 - Labor Day;

September 24 - American Indian Day; and

November 11 - Veterans Day.

SYSP NEWS .... continued from page thirteen

about a little boy named Tuli coming from the military base. When he asks his grandmother, "What does it mean to be a Choctaw?" Nanih Waiya refers to two meanings, Mother mound and temple. Miko and the Choctaws came to Nanih Waiya, and then Miko would stick a pole in the ground at night and in the morning, he would check and see which direction the pole was facing then that's where they would travel to. It wasn't just any pole, it was a sacred pole. We've been here for a long time even before Nanih Waiya. It is where we became as people, some say we came out of a cave and layed there and our skin dried. The story of Pashi Falaya was that it came from her. Then the great Chief Pushmataha fought along Andrew Jackson. There were 9 treaties - Dancing Rabbit, War dance, Walk dance, Snake, Stealing Partners, Wedding, Friendship, Four step and Turkey dance. Also, the white people wanted what we had, so they asked us to sign a release form. On September 1830, the Dancing Rabbit Creek were not in favor of the Treaty and some even left. Then Chief Phillip Martin was a chief for 28 years. Now our Chief is Beasley Denson. Chief Phillip Martin did everything that he could for us Choctaws. It's sad that Phillip Martin passed away after being a chief for 28 years. He was chief from 1979 to 2007."

by Shenowa Polk

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM NEWS

The Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) started the summer work program on June 14 & ended on July 21 for the regular workers. August 6 was the last day for college students. Lifeguards will work until the Labor Day weekend.

It has been a fun & exciting summer for the YOP participants, especially for the community aides. The community aides ranged from 14-16 year olds. The counselors had so many things planned to keep the youth participants busy for the five weeks they were employed.

Community aides were busy with community services, such as cutting grass for elderly & disabled homeowners, churches & cemeteries. They also picked up trash at community ponds, stickball fields & along side the road.

..........continued next page

ABOVE, *A Standing Pine YOP community aide works on her collar necklace.*

RIGHT, *Pearl River & Tucker community aides at the Ropes Challenge Course in Choctaw.*

Some of the community aides' activity plans included writing in journals, doing fundraisers, & doing arts & crafts, such as beading, making headbands & stickball. Counselors & monitors from each community also had guest speakers for the community aides.

Below are articles written from counselors & monitors from each community.

"Standing Pine community aides had a great time cutting grass & cleaning wooded areas for the elderly & picking up trash around the community.

We had guest speakers, Sheila Anderson & Roberto Ben, from Family Violence & Victim's Services talk about date violence. We also had Craig from The Citizen's Bank come & talk about saving money. We would like to thank them for coming down & talking to us."

-Tanisha Isaac (counselor)
& Chantay Frazier (monitor)

"First of all, we would like to thank the elders & those who entrusted us to come on your property to provide service. It has truly been a blessing giving back to the community.

Even though the YOP lasted five weeks, we accomplished & learned a lot. For example, we learned the business side of the Farmer's Market at the Natural Resource Rural & Development. Also, we toured various Tribal Government departments. Guest speaker Cyrus Ben, Pearl River Tribal Council, explained about being in the Tribal Council & starting a business.

Teamwork was a must! Therefore the obstacle course was a real benefit to us. Most of all, we experienced leadership skills, building character & self-esteem & discovering our purpose."

-Jimmy Tangle (monitor),
Kyle Henry (counselor),
Diane Grant (counselor), &
Marion Willis (counselor)

"The Tucker YOP workers did an excellent job this summer. We would like to thank Tim Oakes for teaching us to be careful around different types of snakes & to be aware of them.

Thanks to Robert Ben & Juanina Mingo from Family Violence & Victim's Services. They talked to the YOP workers about the meaning of date violence.

Thanks to the staff of the Justice Complex who gave us a tour of the detention center & explained to the YOP participants that decisions they make has consequences to them.

We enjoyed hanging around Andrew Jones, Garland Bell Jr. & Jordan Taylor at the ropes course. We learned to trust each other to get through this summer as one group.

We also learned about our tradition, such as making stickball sticks & ball with the help of Ashley Billy & Jonathan Steve.

We have learned so much & we enjoyed working with the participants. We would like to add that the workers learned how to cut grass, pick up trash & have respect for others & themselves. We learned how to be a team & do teamwork to get the job done. We thank you all for your hard work, respect & teamwork that you all did this summer. You all did a great job!

Also, congratulations to our little craft workers & beaders who submitted their hard work for the fair & placed blue/red ribbons at the Choctaw Indian Fair. Thank you."

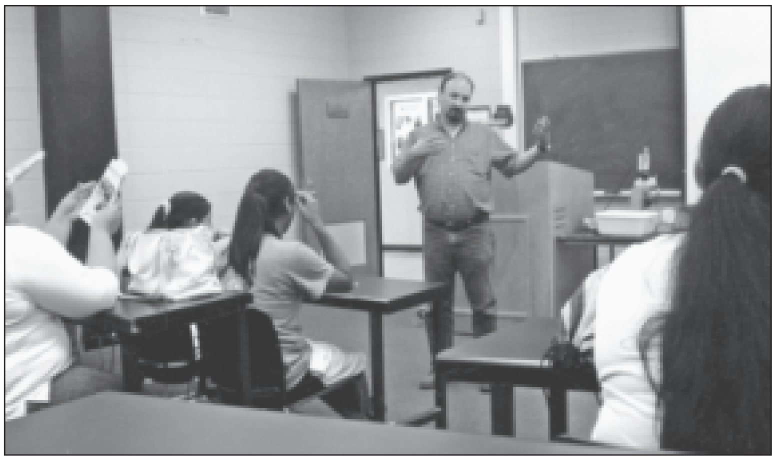
-Angela Farmer (monitor),
Melissa Farmer (counselor)
& Deelenna Wallace
(counselor)

"This summer, Red Water had six community aides. They were productive with their community service duties, such as mowing the grass for the elderly & disabled tribal members from the Red Water community, picking up trash around the community & helping with the community garden.

Also, we engaged in ice breaker exercises & learned the principle of marketing as they learned how to strategize & sell their products with presentations. Moreover, we had group discussions about drugs & alcohol. In

.....see YOP NEWS, pg. 16

YOP community aides mowed the yards of elderly & handicap residents.



YOP on-site workers at Mississippi State University.

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YOP NEWS .... continued from page fifteen

addition, we toured the Pearl River headquarters, resort & programs, such as the Smith John Justice Complex Center.

We visited the Standing Pine YOP participants & played volleyball & basketball. This group of participants interacted & encouraged one another throughout the summer.

YOP participants visit with Jessie Thompson, Minnie Bell & Claudie Bell in Henning, TN.

YOP participants visit the Henning, TN, ballfield.

We did a fundraiser to raise money to attend an end of summer trip. Therefore, we accomplished our goal & took a trip to Hattiesburg, MS, & toured the University of Southern Mississippi campus & went to the mall & movies. Initially, we were suppose to attend Grand Paradise Water Park in Collins, MS, but the participants did not like it so the outcome was different. But we had a great time together on their last day of work."

-Shane Shumake (monitor)
& Tara Steve (counselor)

"On July 7, we took 10 YOP participants who are seniors/recent high school graduates to Mississippi State University. They attended an event hosted by the Agriculture & Life Science Department at MSU. The purpose of this event was to get Choctaw youth to pursue a career in agriculture. Participants that went were Mahlih Vaughn, Brandi

..........continued next page

Chahta Alla Youth Council news

The purposes of Chahta Alla Youth Council (CAYC) are to promote culture and tradition, get young people together as a cohesive group, get involve in tribal government and community affairs, promote education and academics, to work with other youth-oriented programs and build leadership skills. The CAYC is a component of the Youth Opportunity Program.

The current CAYC consist of 18 members. They are Mason Farmer, Christian Gibson, Wesley Martin, Jerithan Jim, Frankie Garcia, Lonzo Shoemake, Mahli Bell, Nadaysha Johnson, Akela Tubby, Caitlin Lilly, Sybranda Bell, Melody Denson, Cameron Lilly, Quinton Billie, Ethan Billie, Elisha Thompson, Mahlih Vaughn, and Taylor Allen.

Meetings are held once a month to discuss topics on fundraising, community service events and among other things.

On May 28, the youth council performed Choctaw social dances at Northwest Middle School for the Talented and Gifted students. They had stickball demonstrations and helped

see CAYC NEWS, pg. 18

Farve, Taylor Allen, Leanna Wallace, Wauseka York, Shonda Wesley, Trisadee McMillan, Anistasia Nickey, Therrick Thomas, & Rapheal McMillan Jr."

"On July 9, YOP staff (Page, Mallory & Rebecca), Pearl River counselors & community aides went on a trip to Henning, TN. The participants had never been to Henning; therefore, the counselors thought it would be a great idea to take them. At Henning, we stopped at Minnie Bell's residence. The girls enjoyed listening to Jessie Thompson, Minnie Bell & Claudie Bell talk about life in Tennessee. The girls also met with YOP worker, Nikko King, & his supervisor, Harry Thompson. We visited the ball field & took pictures. In all, the participants enjoyed their trip to Henning, TN."

Muscadine Mania

by Wayne Porter, Area Horticulture Agent
Mississippi State University Extension Service, Meridian, MS

Muscadine harvest season is here! Muscadines begin ripening in mid-August and continue through October. Muscadines are an excellent source of antioxidants and fiber. They are so resistant to native insects and diseases that they can be grown with little or no pesticide sprays. There are many good varieties of muscadines, so during the harvest season is a good time to find your favorite so you can grow your own.

So which variety do you want to plant? That depends on if you prefer black or bronze fruit. A lot of people call the bronze colored ones 'scuppernong' and the black colored muscadines, but they are really all muscadines. The confusion arose because the first bronze colored fruit was named Scuppernong (because it was found on the Scuppernong River in North Carolina).

After you decide what your color preference is, you need to think about sex. Yes, sex is important for muscadines. Some varieties have flowers with both male and female parts (self-fertile). Others have only female flowers. You will need to plant a pollinator (self-fertile vine) within 25 feet of only female vines to get sufficient fruit production.

Your last choice is what are you going to do with the fruit. If the vines are for your backyard you can grow any kind. If you plan to sell the fruit, then you need to talk with potential buyers before you plant. They will tell you which cultivars to grow.

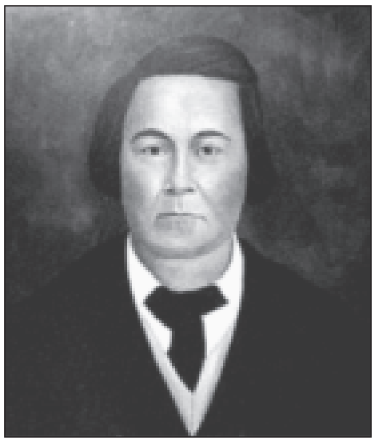
If you want muscadines for eating fresh, the five recommended fresh cultivars are Nesbitt, Summit, Supreme, Tara, and Triumph. Nesbitt and Supreme are black and Summit, Tara, and Triumph are bronze. All five of these cultivars are easy to grow, disease resistant, and produce fruit with a dry stem scar (important if you sell your muscadines in clamshell containers through a retail store).

If your goal is to produce wine, you can use the cultivars listed above, but you will get better juice yield using the bronze cultivars Carlos, Doreen, Magnolia, or Welder or the black cultivar Noble. All five of these wine cultivars are self-fertile and would pollinate the female fresh market cultivars discussed above.

For more information, contact your local extension service office and request a copy of *Publication 2290: Establishment and Production of Muscadine Grapes*, or look it up online at www.msucares.com/pubs.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

by Timothy W. Oakes,
USDA-NRCS



Portrait of Greenwood Leflore

Greenwood Leflore was born on June 3, 1800. His father was a French trader and his mother was the niece of the legendary Choctaw general and chief, Pushmataha. His family created a thriving business along the Natchez Trace known today as French Camp. Leflore played an important role in the history of America and the people known as Choctaw.

In November 2001, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) purchased property in Carroll County, Miss. Not just any property, for it was known as Malmasion, a grand mansion built by Leflore in 1852. Situated on a hill 11 miles east of Greenwood, the lands were formally part of the Choctaw hunting grounds ceded in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek.

The mansion was destroyed by fire in 1942, with few items saved. According to Ken Carleton, Tribal Archaeologist, some artifacts are housed in the Malmasion Room at Cottonlandia Museum in Greenwood. Yes, the town and the county are named after him.

Traveling to the site is still difficult, especially during the winter months. The original roads, narrow with deep side walls, cleave around deep gullies and steep hills

see MALMASION, pg. 18

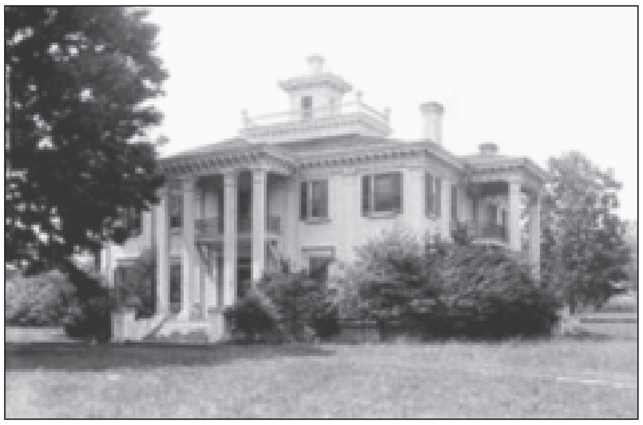


Photo of Malmasion before the fire.

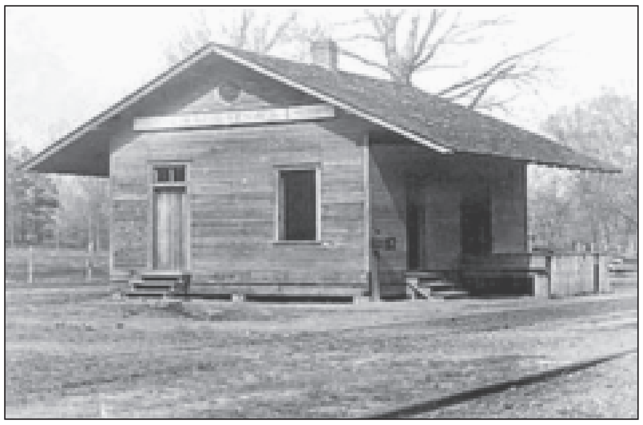


Photo of train depot at Malmasion.

Current site of old rail Malmasion depot.

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MALMASION .... continued from page seventeen

and are about the only way in. Improvements have been made to the road in some sections.

A railroad is still intact along the south side of the property, although trains don’t run on them anymore. Malmasion had its own station up until the 1930’s. With some investigation we were able to located the old depot site and have plans to plant wildlife food plots in the fields north and south of its location.

The property today is being used as it was several hundred years ago, with hunting and fishing being its primary use.

The United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is being used to

..........continued next page

LEFT, *Watershed dam (Big Sandy Watershed).* **RIGHT**, *Brantley Willis, left, Field Operations Coordinator for MBCI, looks on while Jim McAdory, right, MSU Extension Agent, & Jason Grisham, Director of MBCI Natural Resources, examine the wildlife corridor.*

CAYC NEWS .... continued from page sixteen

students make necklaces with love mixed beads.

On July 3, CAYC members performed Choctaw social dances at the Mississippi Craft Center. Dances they performed were the Snake Dance, Walk Dance, Fast War Dance, Stealing Partners, Jump Dance, and Raccoon Dance. Members also had a stickball demonstration.

Members that participated were Sybranda Bell, Trisadee McMillan, William McMillan, Mahli Bell, Nadaysha Johnson, Taylor Allen, Wesley Martin, Cameron Lilly, Lonzo Shoemake, Caitlin Lilly, and Alexandria Willis.

Our chanter was Donti Alex and Willard Bacon Jr. was our drummer.

Also, CAYC members and volunteers performed during Mi̱ko’s hour at the Choctaw Indian Fair on July 16. They performed the Jump Dance, Snake Dance, Fast War Dance, Stealing Partners, and Walk Dance. Members and volunteers that participated were Sybranda Bell, Nadaysha Johnson, Caitlin Lilly, Mahli Bell, Akela Tubby, Melody Denson, Madison Billie, Rebecca York, Danielle Isaac, Jerithan Jim, Quinton Billie, Willard Bacon Jr., Lonzo Shoemake, Cameron Lilly, Wauseka York, Jacob Hickman, Liberty McMillan, and Simon Isaac.

Our chanters were Wesley Martin and Glenda Denson. Donti Alex was our drummer. Thank you Glenda and Donti!

Congratulations to our Chahta Alla Youth members, Miss Mahlih Vaughn for winning the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant, and Miss Mahli Bell for placing First Alternate.

On September 28, the CAYC will be performing social dances at the Queen City Fair in Meridian. They will also have stickball and blow gun demonstrations.

If anyone ages 14-24 years old (high school and college students) are interested in becoming a member of Chahta Alla Youth Council, applications are available at the YOP office.

assist the Tribe in its resource needs. In our partnership, we have the responsibility to protect the natural and cultural resources of the site.

There are many complexities about Malmasion that include the old mansion site, out buildings, the depot site, family church site and cemetery, old roads or trails and a federal watershed dam. We have to be careful about every environmental aspect - the wildlife, plants, wetlands, forest, and soils - anything that could impact positively or negatively on the site.

With the use of the USDA programs like WHIP, landowners have many options to improve wildlife management on the land and this allows us to stretch a dollar farther. Many of the programs assist in a 50 to 75 percent reimbursement of the cost after the projects are completed.

"We are working with USDA-NRCS to achieve the Tribes natural resource goals," said Jason Grisham, Director of Natural Resources for the MBCI. "We continue to assist our own Wildlife and Parks Department with most of the daily operations and maintenance of historic properties belonging to the Tribe."

Hundreds of years ago, fire was used as a forest management tool by the first Americans. The Choctaw regarded the use as a necessary part to promote diversity of habitat. Fires were set in order to make abandoned fields useful and prosperous. The fields and forest are again abundant with wildlife. The land has come full circle, with the Choctaw once again managing their own land.

For more information, please contact USDA-NRCS Mississippi Choctaw Field Office (Timothy Oakes) at 601-656-2070.

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LEFT, *From left, NRCS Conservation Program Analyst Timothy Oakes & MBCI Natural Resources Director Jason Grisham discuss scheduled practices needed under WHIP for Malmasion.*
RIGHT, *Fires were set to make abandoned fields useful & prosperous again at Malmasion.*

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In Memory

REGINALD WAYNE NICKEY

Funeral services for Reginald Wayne Nickey, 27, were held Sunday, July 25, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Nickey passed away July 21 in Neshoba County.

He attained his GED in 2005. He was employed at the Pearl River Resort then went to college to pursue a career in computer technology. He ended his career at the resort as a kitchen worker with ABM.

Mr. Nickey ejoyed fishing, spending time with his children, listening to heavy metal music, & visiting family & friends. He was very competitive & always had a smile.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Odean Bell Nickey; father, Joelee Jones; grandmother, Evelyn Bell Jefferson; foster parents, Arthur Ben & Cecil Farmer; & an uncle, Emmett Dixon.

Survivors include two children, Calleigh Nickey & Ethanial Nickey; common-law wife, Misti York; a sister, Lisa A. Gibson; five brothers, Jonathon Nickey, Sebastian Nickey, Lydell Nickey, Lyndell Nickey, & Lyndon Nickey; foster parents, Mary Ben & Mary Farmer; several foster siblings; two aunts; seven uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ARDIS MITCH

Funeral services for Ardis Mitch, 70, were held Monday, August 2, 2010, from the John Memorial Methodist Church in Carthage. The Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Mitch passed away July 29 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was employed at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula until he became disabled in 1974.

He enjoyed spending time with family, friends & going to the casino.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilson & Irene Mitch; sisters, Joyce Wilson & Margie Huntley; & brothers, Cecil Mitch, Kenneth Mitch Sr., Curtis Mitch, & Burley Mitch.

Survivors include a sister, Janie Rodriguez of Carthage; a brother, Lloyd Mitch of Choctaw; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ALDRIDGE LEE WILLIS JR.

Funeral services for

see OBITUARIES, pg. 20

OBITUARIES

continued from page nineteen

Aldridge Lee Willis Jr., 32, were held Tuesday, August 3, 2010, from the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Pastor Thomas Ben Jr. and the Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery in Standing Pine. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Willis passed away July 30 in Philadelphia.

A 1997 graduate of Choctaw Central High School, Willis was employed with Dancing Rabbit Golf Club. He was then a detention officer & later a police officer with the Choctaw Police Department. He was a security officer at the Silver Star Hotel & Casino.

Mr. Willis lived most of his life in the Standing Pine community. He loved playing video games, fishing & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Aldridge Lee Willis Sr.; grandparents, Philman Williams, Aline Williams, Hester Willis, & Margaret Clah; aunts, Deles Deon, Camerita Dixon & Judy Mitch; uncles, Sammy Williams, Jonas Williams, Bradley Williams, & Dennis Williams.

Survivors include his mother, Emma Willis; daughters, Lorigannon Willis, Tanaecy Willis & Leaira Willis; a son, Lawson Willis; companion, Ashley Dixon; sisters, Tracey Waiter & Oneva Willis; nieces, nephews, a great-nephew, relatives, & friends.

EVERETTE TONY HICKMAN

Funeral services for Everette Tony Hickman, 73, were held Wednesday, August 4, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium, The Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery #2. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hickman passed away Aug. 1 at his home.

At an early age, he enjoyed spending time with his family, cousins & making plenty of friends.

Mr. Hickman was very talented, resourceful & used his natural skills to help others. He was a kind & generous person who would help anyone at any time.

Hickman found the love of his life & shared 44 years wholly committed to Edna Frazier Hickman beginning Dec. 14, 1960, until her death on Sept. 26, 2004. They had four sons & two daughters.

They regularly attended Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Their grandchildren remember them most by their joyful teasing & joking around.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edmund & Jane Jackson Hickman; wife, Edna Frazier Hickman; sons, Ronnie Hickman, Johnny Hickman & Ralph Hickman; a sister, Onie Hickman; brothers, John Mullet Hickman, Charles Hickman Sr., Nubbin Hickman, & Clifton Cox Hickman Sr.

Survivors include two daughters, Alice Marie Isaac & Elizabeth Hickman, both of Philadelphia; a son, Robert Hickman of Philadelphia; 12 grandchildren; eight great-grandchidren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

LINDA E. FARVE

Funeral services for Linda E. Farve, 60, were held Friday, August 13, 2010, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Pastor Harold Coburn Jr. officiated.

Burial was in the Frazier Family Cemetery in the Bogue Chitto community. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Farve passed away Aug. 10 at her residence.

Born on Jan. 20, 1950, Farve was the fourth of eight children born to the late Gaston & Bessie Frazier. She was raised in the Bogue Chitto community where she attended elementary school & later graduated from Choctaw Central High School.

After high school, she married Hamilton Farve & had two children. The couple also opened their home to the foster care program & nurtured an additional 16 children. Many of these children continued to love & respect her for the values they learned.

Farve valued self-sufficiency & refined her God given talents to create hand crafted items for a small business. She learned to weave cane baskets & became one of the tribe's master basket makers. Farve shared her talents by offering community members an opportunity to learn her crafts & would share as God's word, the source of her blessing.

Her desire to promote the people was evident in her church & community services. In her church, Farve taught Bible classes to adults & children, but had a passion to lead the youth whom she saw as the future. Many summers, she spearheaded efforts to raise money to ensure her church youth attended a mission camp where they could learn to share the gospel.

Farve was inspired to lead grassroots movements that encouraged government accountability to the people it served. Eventually her enthusiasm for the public voice won her a seat on the Choctaw Tribal Council as Pearl River representative and served a total of 16 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gaston & Bessie Frazier; brothers, Larry Frazier, Sherrill Don Frazier, Raymond Earl Frazier, Jerry Dewayne Frazier; & foster sons, David Ben & Darrell Wallace.

Survivors include her husband, Hamilton Farve; daughter, Sherlynn Farve;

..........continued next page

IN MEMORY OF JOHN HENRY SAM

John Henry Sam of McAlester, OK, died Tuesday, July 6, 2010, at McAlester Regional Health Center at the age of 68.

John was born to Charlie & Louisa Marie (Ott) Sam Feb. 5, 1942, in McAlester, Okla. He worked as a cabinet maker. John enjoyed fishing, mowing lawns & helping the elderly. He was of the Baptist faith.

John is survived by brothers & sisters, Charles Sam & wife Kay of Stinnett, Texas, Dennis Sam & wife Friga of McAlester, Sue Hood & husband Murray of Quinton, Bessie Sam of McAlester, Virgil Sam of Albion, Jimmy Sam & wife Emma of Kyle, South Dakota, Louise Mitchell & husband Bill of Hartshorne; nieces & nephews, Kendra, Christie, Perry, Chris, Gabriel, Jeanne, Nathan, Johnathan, Vera, Roy, Mary, Dianne, Nellie, Douglas, Sonny, Angie, Kullo, Shawn, Marie, Dell, Tommy, & Kimberly; numerous great nieces & nephews & other family members & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charlie & Louisa Sam; brother, Tommy Ray Sam; nieces, Pamela Sam & Alice Lynn Sam; nephews, Dennis Sam, Jr., Christopher Daniel Sam.

A wake service was held 7 p.m., Friday, July 9, 2010, at the First Indian Baptist Church, McAlester, OK. Funeral services were held 10 a.m., Saturday, July 10, 2010, at the First Indian Baptist Church, 608 West Tyler, with Rev. William Frye, Rev. Bob Tate & Mr. Dennis Sam officiating. Interment followed in Hickory Grove Cemetery, Haywood, OK.

Pallbearers were Doug Sam, Roy Hood, Perry Zarr, Tommy Mitchell, Kullo Sam, & Darrell Faver, Sr.

Honorary pallbearers were Shawn Mitchell, Darrell Faver, Jr., Charles Simpson, Chris Pease, Ronnie Crawford, Sonny Sam, Harold Meashintubby, Sr., Harold Meashintubby, Jr., Nathaniel Meashintubby, & John Faver.

Funeral services were entrusted to Chaney Harkins Funeral Home, McAlester, OK.

son, Kevin Farve; grandson, Pierceson Farve; sisters, Geraldine Jim, Gwen Willis, Marilyn Tubby; aunts, Hazel Willis & Pauline Hickman; special grandchildren, Cyrus Ben, Ira L. Ben, Cheriena Ben, Cenetria Smith, Cenedria Smith, Cody Smith, & Ethan Smith; & a host of foster children, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

STANLEY EARL DIXON

Funeral services for Stanley Earl Dixon, 61, were held Saturday, August 14, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Doby Henry & Pastor Thomas Ben Jr. officiated.

Burial was in the Phillips Cemetery in Choctaw. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Dixon passed away Aug. 9 at his residence.

He attended Choctaw Central High School & was an extraordinary athlete in track, football & baseball. Known to many as "Shingley", Dixon graduated from CCHS & attended Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla.

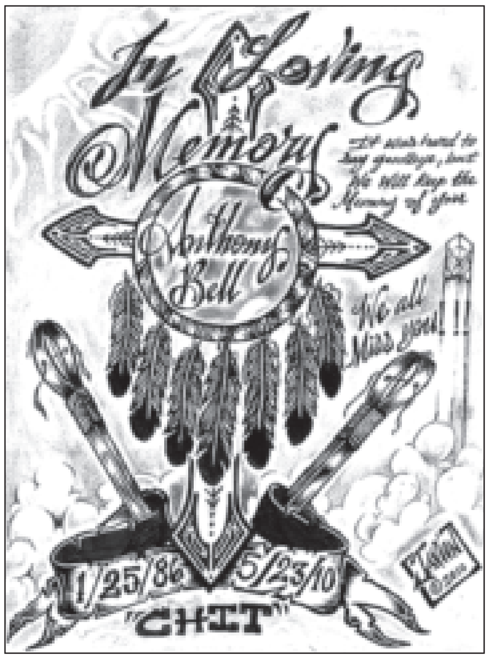
In 1977, he moved to Florida & became a social worker. He was compassionate about helping people & helped migrant workers. He also worked with the Agricultural & Labor Program, Inc., for 22 years. He was a fine pianist & an avid cook.

Dixon & his wife, Ann, opened their home to disabled children.

Stanley spoke fondly of his three loving children, Lawrence, Shannon & Niko. He will be missed by his special friend, Casper, a mixed breed dog.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Marie Dixon; a twin sister, Shirley Dixon; & grandmother, Sarah Dixon.

Survivors include his wife, Ann Dixon; two sons, Lawrence (and wife, Florina) Shorty of Falls Church, Virginia, & Niko Dixon of Choctaw; a daughter, Shannon Amos of Philadelphia; four sisters, Edna (and husband, Jarner) Thompson, Kaffie Taylor, Ollie (and husband, Raju) Varghese, all of Moss Point, & Frances Taylor of Jackson; a brother, Ken Kilmowitz of Choctaw; a great-aunt, Collie Collins; & numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, relatives, & friends.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER
EVELYN JANE SHOEMAKE
NOVEMBER 21, 1963 - JANUARY 4, 2002

Mother, you cried when you were giving birth to us. Now we cry because you're not here with us anymore. Mother, you used to get mad & angry when we did something wrong or stupid. Now we get mad because we can't see you anymore & we get angry because we don't have you by our side.

Mother, you used to smile when we did something silly. Mother, it's been 8 years since you left us. But we know you are in the Creator's care where He will take care of you. You will never feel anymore pain, sorrow, anger, & sadness like you once felt when you were here on Mother Earth. But now you are in heaven with the Creator & the angels.

The Creator needed more angels so he called on you to come home. He took you to heaven because you are a beautiful angel. Now, you are in the hands of the Creator where you will only feel love, joy, happiness, & peace. But mother we are selfish - we are the ones who cry, get mad, get angry in pain. We cry because we miss you & need you. We're mad because you are not here anymore. We're angry because we can't see you and our heart is in pain because you left us behind.

Mother, it's been a long time since you've been gone, but we will keep your precious smile & your precious memories alive.

Wilhelmina Jefferson
Richie Shoemake
Geronimo Shoemake
Veronica Shoemake
Daron Shoemake
Sharon Shoemake

IN HONOR & MEMORY OF OUR FATHER, GRANDFATHER, HUSBAND, & FRIEND
EUGENE TUBBY
(1935-2009)

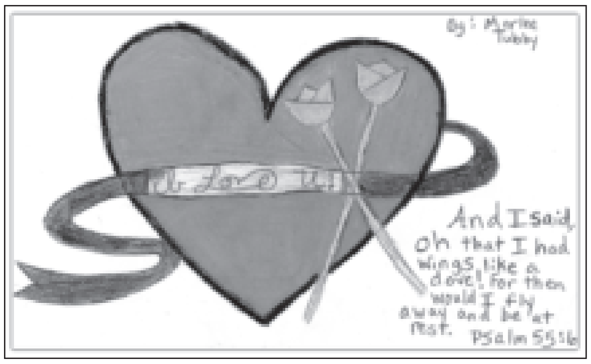
It has been over a year since you were called home, but in everything we do as a family we still feel you are a part of us. God blessed us through your life & choices; we are better individuals because of our time with you. We miss your laughter, we miss your smile, we miss your whistling, we miss your jokes, we miss you being with us when we eat together, we miss you when we go to church, we miss you when we sing your favorite Choctaw hymn & we miss you when we go to a ballgame & you are not there. Thank you for living a Christian life that was a model for us all.

From your family - Tim, Charlie,
Grandkids, & Sammlee Tubby.

LEFT, *Papaw & Marlee - Happy Birthday Papaw on Sept. 26.* **RIGHT**, *Papaw & Thomas - Happy Birthday Thomas on Sept. 1.*

Eugene & grandkids, Jackie, Stephanie, Marlee, Brianna, Troy, & Thomas.

I miss your laughs & your jokes. Your smile is still in my mind. Nobody can ever forget you! Through the good & the bad you were always there. You took laughter with you every where you went. You always had advice for me! I miss & love you! - Marlee

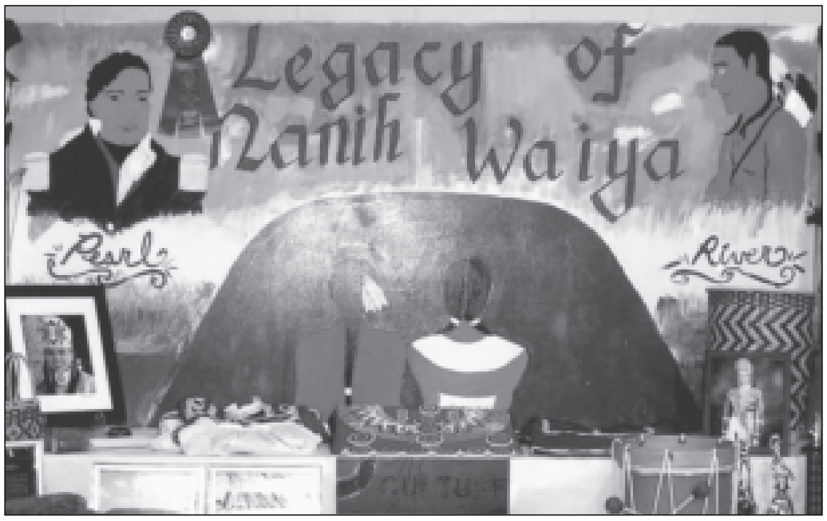

By: Marlee Tubby
And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away and be at rest. Psalm 55:6

RETIRES AFTER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE

A retirement party for Margaret Henry, seated center, was held at the Choctaw Central High School Gymnasium on July 30, 2010. Margaret has been a great asset to the Choctaw Tribal Schools for 47 years. She was first employed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1963 as a dorm aide. She then moved on to work with children as an instructional aide. Margaret transferred to the Choctaw Tribal School Transportation Program & worked with Benson Lewis for several years. As time went on she became the custodial & maintenance secretary for the last 15 years or so working with Frank Bell & his crew. Margaret has worked with many, many new faces during her tenure with the Tribal Schools & we want to thank her & wish her the very best.

PRDC BOOTH PLACES FIRST

The Pearl River Development Club booth placed first at the annual Choctaw Indian Fair. The club thanks all who contributed to the booth and a special thanks to Joe Isaac for the extraordinary painting.



FAMILY REUNION

The grandchildren of the late Hught Bell celebrated a family reunion on Mother's Day. Pictured are Grace Lewis & Saline Willis (daughters of the late Dora Bell) & Corina Bear, Linnie Conrad, Lorena Lewis, & Priscilla Isaac (daughters of the late Viola Bell Johnson). Special recognition was given to James Johnson & Clyde Jim also. If anyone would like a complete genealogy of the family, contact Raeline McMillan.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 21st Birthday to Ivan L. Willis on Sept. 6. Love you always from Dad, Mom, Dee, “Bebe”, Bud, Yo, & Caden.

Happy Birthday to Elvin Ben on Sept. 7. Love from Dee, “Bebe”, Bud, Finn, Yo, & Caden.

Happy Birthday to Ira L. Ben on Sept. 8, from your cuz, Dee, Bud, Finn, Yo, & Caden.

Happy 19th Birthday to Deidre R. Willis on Sept. 12. Love you always, from Dad, Mom, Dee, “Bebe”, Bud, Finn, & Caden.

Happy 2nd Birthday to my grandson, Myrik Heath McMillan “Bebe” on Sept. 29. Love you always from Papo Arnold Wilson & Mamo Marion Willis.

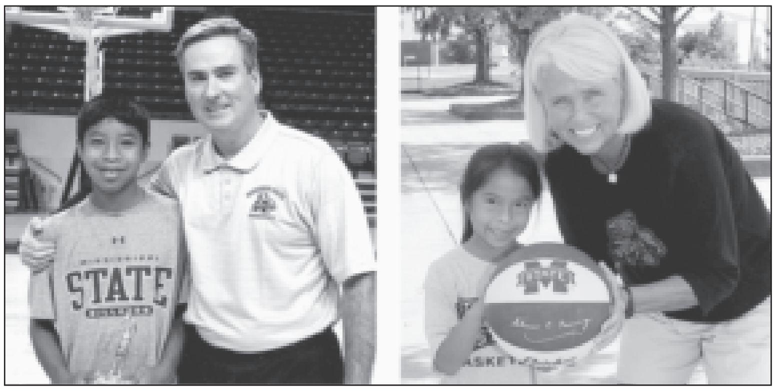
Happy Belated 31st Birthday to my wife, April Dawn Jackson, on Aug. 14, from your husband Eric Jackson. I love you!... Happy Belated Birthday to my mother-in-law, Debra Bell, on Aug. 13... Happy Belated 29th Birthday to Shonda R. Jackson on Aug. 24, from your family... Happy 8th Birthday to Brian Dixon, from Eric & April Jackson.

Happy 33rd Birthday to my daddy Lucas James Thomas Sr. on Sept. 2, my sister Aless (a.k.a. Chickers) on Sept. 8, my mother Dawnena John on Sept. 9, my cousin Kaleiyah a Happy 1st Birthday on Sept. 10, my grandmother Laura on Sept. 16, from Nanners.

......................continued next page

LOOK WHO'S TURNING 3 ON SEPT. 28!

To my beautiful daughter. It feels like just yesterday I held you in my arms. I can't believe my lil baby girl is growing up. I thank God himself for blessing me with a beautiful & wonderful daughter. Happy Birthday! We love you Bebe Chitto! With love from mom, family & friends.



ATTENDS MSU CAMP

Jason McMillan, left, (with Bulldogs head coach Rick Stansbury) & Leilaya McMillan (with Lady Bulldogs head coach Sharon Fanning-Otis) attended the Mississippi State University Bulldogs Basketball Camp. Jason received the Defense Award & Leilaya received the Hot Shot Award. Congratulations to you both from dad, mom & Baby Jae.

Happy Birthday to the love of my life & mother of our two beautiful daughters, Dawnena John on Sept. 9. I love you, from Shaunrey Jefferson.

Happy Belated 21st Birthday to Dustin Karl Isaac on Aug. 6. Even though you're 21 & a father, you will always be our lil brother. We all love you, boy - from your family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Jacob M. Isaac on Aug. 3, 2010, from Mommy, Daddy, Mamo, Jamal, Jordan, & Nana... Happy Belated Birthday to Toby Hickman on Aug. 6, 2010, from your family in B.C... Happy 4th Birthday to Jamal Isaac on Sept. 4, 2010, from Mommy, Daddy, Mamo, Nana, Jordan, & Jacob.

Happy Birthday to Ricky Isaac on Sept. 29, 2010, from your kids Jamal, Jordan, Jacob, & Nana... Happy Birthday to Breanna Isaac "Button" on Sept. 24, 2010, from your cousins Jamal, Jordan, Jacob, Nana, & Uncle C-moe... Happy Birthday to Wendy Isaac on Sept. 23, 2010, from your niece & nephews in B.C., Jamal, Jordan, Jacob, & C-moe.

Happy Birthdays to those who I love: my lil bro Brett K.E.A. Hickman on Sept. 1; my fav cuz Chris Hickman, a.k.a. Tato & my lil nephew Chandler Kahron Billy, both on Sept. 4; my baby niece who I miss every single day, Ms. Malayjiah Blaize Hinakbitipoli Hickman on Sept. 9; my homegirl, Ms. Chanda Deann Lewis on Sept. 7; & my mom who I love so much, Ms. Vivian M. Chapman, on Sept. 16. Hope yall have fun & God bless yall with many more! Love always - Deez!

Happy Belated Birthday to Chris John, a.k.a. Becky, on Aug. 2! Hope you had fun & wish you many more, from Deez!

Happy Birthday to our wonderful mother & grandmother Ms. Vivian M. Chapman, a.k.a. Bonok, on Sept. 16. Have a blessed birthday full of love & happiness. May God be with you & bless you with many more to come. Love always from your kids Jonique, DecEmma & DiJon, & grandkids Malayjiah & Josias Hickman & James E. Willis III.

Happy 3rd Birthday to James E. Willis III on Sept. 28, from mom Jonique, sister Malayjiah & baby brother Josias. Also on the 28th, Happy Birthday to Ms. Tenaylea Jeanette (Thomas) Mingo. Love always from your cuz, Jonique. Party like a rock star!

Happy Birthday to Christopher Laverette Hickman, a.k.a. Tato, on Sept. 4, from cousins Deez, P.J. & Jonique. Don't overdo it Biggin!

Happy Birthday to Brett K.E.A. Hickman on Sept. 1. Love you, from your sister Jonique & nephew Josias... Happy 6th Birthday to my precious baby girl, Ms. Malayjiah Blaize Hinakbitipoli Hickman, on Sept. 9, 2010, in Dallas, TX. I love you & miss you dearly. No one will ever replace you of being my daughter. There is a special place just for you in my heart that only you can complete me. We hope & pray that one day you will be back to us. Til then you are always & forever in our thoughts & prayers. I know you will have a happy, wonderful & blessed birthday. May God be with you & bless you with many more years to come with so much love, hugs & kisses. From your mom Jonique Hickman, Mamo Chapman, Auntie DecEmma, baby brother Josias E. Hickman, & the rest of your family in MS.

Chukfi Osi & Chip wish a Happy 14th Birthday to their big brother JT on Sept. 9 & Happy 10th Birthday to our Nanah on Sept. 29. We love you!... Happy Birthday to our "Awesome Grandpa" Papo Travis Willis on Sept. 30. With love from Chukfi Osi, JT, Tenly Pooh, Nanah, Gracie, & Chip. We love you very much Papo!

Happy Birthday to Priscilla Williams on Sept. 19, from the CPP staff.

Happy 19th Birthday to Marilyn Marie Tubby, Happy Birthday to Jean Jones on Aug. 12, Happy Birthday to Gary Tubby II, also Happy Birthday to Karen Richards, from everyone who loves you.... Happy 9th Birthday to Miya Alexa Steve who will be 9 on Sept. 3 & to John Keith Evans who will be 16 on Sept. 21, from everyone who loves you.

Conner & Nakota Willis wish a Happy Belated Birthday to their lovable Grandmama Carol Willis with lots of o's & x's on Aug. 14...& also to Grampapa Ricky Willis on July 3.

Happy 14th Birthday to our daughter, Kayla Denae Joe, on Sept. 18, from mom, dad bran, shorty, Jr., Aven, & the Sams... Happy Birthday to Raven "Bebe" Isaac on Sept. 27, from the Da Joes. Stay sweet & love ya'll very much!!

I wish my sista Miss Cherish Bell a Happy 20th Birthday in Sept. Dont overdo it gurl! Love ya, Mina... Happy Birthday to Isabella Renee Willis on Sept. 9. Have da best birthday eva! - Mina.

Happy Belated Birthday to K.C. Joe on Aug. 3, Richard John Jr.

.......................see BIRTHDAYS, page 24

"CHICKERS" TURNS 3!

Happy Birthday to Alessondra Sapphire Jefferson on Sept. 8. Love, Momma Dawn, Daddy Shaun, LaLa Boo, & Grandma John.

EMBRACING OUR SISTERS ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS

Mrs. Thelma Barnes on Sept. 27, 2010

Mrs. Peggy Davis on Sept. 17, 2010

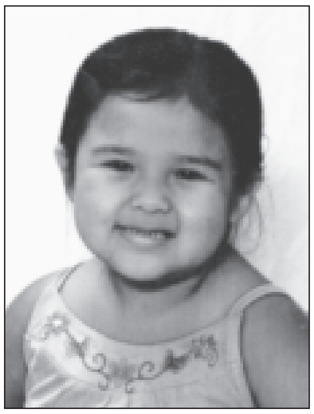
As you two celebrate your special day, we pray that it be filled with the blessings of grace & mercy from Heaven above. There aren't enough words to describe the love we have for you in our hearts.

The lifetime devotion you have given to us has brought us endless love. Through it all... you stood by our sides bringing us security & stability.

With these few words, may it fulfill your hearts with the joy of spirit & gratitude. God bless you both on your birthdays & we sincerely do love you two!

With unconditional love,
your sister & brothers,
Ms. Daisy A. Jim & family
Mr. Jimmy Jim & family
Mr. Barry D. Jim, Sr. & family
Mr. Davis Jim & family
Mr. Jared J. Jim & family

H-A-P-P-Y
5th Birthday to
Jaliah Rashad!
Love always from Mom & Dad, Mamo & Papo York, Cousins Taelan, ReAnna & Kam; Aunties Tesa, Arrah & Erin.



Happy 5th Birthday!
Jaliah Rashad Mingo
Love you from Mom, Dad, Grandma Stella, Uncle X, Auntie Sunni, Errol, Cousins Tatum & Kinleigh, & Grandma Dora & Papo Butch.

Happy 2nd Birthday to my baby Malena Lynn Sockey on Sept. 18. Enjoy your big day bebish, from your Dad, Kristie Lynn, Nick, Zack, G-ma & G-pa Tubby.

Happy Birthday to Jacob "JT" Thomas, who turned 14, on Sept. 9 & to Janeon "Nanah" Alex, who turned 10, on Sept. 29. O how our angels have grown over the years into a fine young gentleman & a sweet, caring & loving girl. Hope your day was memorable. We love you guys so much. hugs & kisses from Mommy, Kev, the wild Grisham boys, & the rest of the family.

BIRTHDAYS .... continued from page twenty-three

on Aug. 15, Christy John on Aug. 19. Love from Mom, Dad, your brothers & sisters, Mamo Lewis & the rest of the family in S.P. We love yall.

Happy Birthday to T.J. Keith Lewis on Sept. 9. Also to Richard John Sr. on Sept. 14, from Janet & the kids, also from your friends & family in SP. We love yall both!

Happy Belated Birthday to Larindo Helly Ben, from Nina, Laranda, Echo, Aaliyah, Larindo Jr., & Elora.

Happy Belated Birthday to Patricia Willis, a.k.a. Auntie Trish, on July 25, from Mina, Justin & your one & only sister-in-law.

Happy Birthdays to two wonderful people that have been a part of our lives forever - Lonie Comby on Sept. 27 & Junior Comby on Sept. 29. We don't know what we would do without you two & thank you for all that you have done for us. We love the both of yall, from Mina, Justin & Steph.

Happy 4th Birthday to Kage on Sept. 26, with lots of love from Mom, John, Patae, Zayna, Mamo & Papo Dixon, & your uncles & cousins.

KAELEEN IS FINALLY 13!

Happy Birthday to Kaeleen Anderson on Sept. 1. We love you Kael! From Mom, Kaegen, Aunt, Jayce, & Brian... Happy Birthday to Jessica A. Henry on Sept. 20. With much love from Mom, Jenn, Kael, Kaeg, & Jayce.

To Nolan Dale Bell Jr. on Aug. 8, Happy Birthday & save me a cake! From Nolynn Daley Onma Bell.

Happy Belated Birthday Duran Joe! on Aug. 24. With love from Theresa, Lola, Nolynn, Day, Tosh, & Trish.

Happy Birthday to the following Sept. birthdays: Kristen on the 3rd; Spooda on the 13th; BB Nolynn on the 14th; Tosh on the 30th; Happy Birthday ya'll! Hugs n kisses - Nah-Nah, Wah-Wee, BB Cito, Ano, Sis, Linae, Ya-Ya, Zarn, Zy, Big Baby, & TJ.

To Tosh Jackson on Sept. 30, Happy Birthday! From Daddy, Momma, Bebe, Dano, Day, & Trish... Happy Birthday Auntie Tosh on Sept. 30, with sugar & spice - Nolynn.

Happy Birthday Binks! on Sept. 7, from Trish & Nolynn.

Happy Birthday to Holly Denson on Aug. 10.

Happy 3rd Birthday
You're the Only Love that Will Never fade..
Daddy Loves you

Nolynn Bell has a birthday, hip, hip hooray!

And on her cake she has 3 candles, what a happy day!

With a puff puff here, & a puff puff there,

Here a puff, there a puff, everywhere a puff puff.

Nolynn Bell has a birthday, hip, hip hooray!

To my beautiful daughter, Nolynn Daley Onma Bell, Happy 3rd Birthday on Sept. 14. With all my loving heart - Momma.

THE BIRTHDAY CAKE

Today is Nolynn's birthday, let's make her a cake.

Mix & stir, stir & mix, then into the oven to bake.

Here's the cake so nice & round, we put it with pink & white.

We put 3 candles on it, to make the birthday bright.

Happy Birthday, Nolynn!

We love you & Happy 3rd Birthday on Sept. 14, from Auntie Day, Auntie Tosh & Moshi Dano.

TO NOLAN DALE BELL, SR.

(Even though you are gone & left to be with God, we wish you Happy Birthday on Aug. 18.)

There's a special place in my heart that only you can touch.

A place where I can go & feel you near, throughout the day I think of you.

I see your smile, hear your voice, & in my thoughts you lovingly appear.

The way we used to love each other makes it hard to be apart.

So when I can't hold you in my arms, I hold you in my heart.

Loving & missing you always, from Trishahn Jackson & Nolynn Daley Onma Bell.

We wish a Belated Happy Anniversary to Donti & Rebecca Alex on Aug. 5, from Danny, Lola, Dano, Tosh, Day, Trish, & Nolynn.

HAPPY BELATED ANNIVERSARY & WE LOVE YA'LL!

On Aug. 7, congratulations to Mr. Theodore & Diane (Jackson) Thomas as they were wed at the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church! Congratulations! From Uncle Danny Jackson & Family.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 10 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 OCTOBER 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Native American delegation visits Bolivia

A delegation of four Native Americans from the State of Mississippi visited Bolivia Aug. 24-30 to participate in a "People's Diplomacy" program co-organized by the U.S. Embassy and the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation included three representatives of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians - Gilbert Thompson, Joshua Breedlove, Faron Gardner - and one individual of Creek heritage, Mark Majors.

In La Paz, the delegation partnered with Bolivian indigenous community leaders for a series of workshops to share experiences in the preservation of indigenous culture, tribal governance, community justice, and economic development. An evening reception held on Aug. 25

see DELEGATION, pg. 2

Choctaw mother, son part of UMMC history

Georgianna Joe and her son, Zavin Arellano.

JACKSON, Miss. - Dr. Jorge Salazar, University of Mississippi Health Care's chief of congenital heart surgery, has performed the state's first arterial switch on a Heidelberg newborn.

On Aug. 4, Salazar performed the Medical Center's first arterial switch procedure on Zavin Arellano, a complex procedure that involved switching the heart's major arteries, which are reversed, back to their normal position and moving the delicate coronary arteries with the aorta. With the help of a highly-skilled team of medical professionals, the surgery was successful.

"It's one of the most com-

.........see SURGERY, pg. 8

Warriors win Battle of the Nations XIV

The Choctaw Central Warriors (3-1) claimed a thrilling 33-28 victory over the Cherokee Braves (2-2) Sept. 10 in the 14th edition of the Battle of the Nations at Ray Kinsland Stadium in Cherokee, N.C. It was Choctaw Central's second consecutive win over Cherokee. The Braves still hold a 8-6 advantage in the series. *(Photo courtesy of Vince Nickey Photography)*

Television special to feature the Tribe

The legacy, traditions and everyday life of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians are featured in a special *Mississippi Roads* television program airing Thursday, November 4 at 7 p.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB).

The special brings attention to the Choctaw's history, culture and language. Mississippi Roads producers even take a special trip to the Choctaw Indian Fair.

The success of the Tribe's business enterprises is underscored in the program.

"The journey from Nanih Waiya to where we are is a depiction of who we are, where we are and what we should be in the future," said Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson during the Nanih Waiya Day celebration. "I'm hoping youngsters learn and say, 'I want to study more about our Tribe.'"

The *Mississippi Roads* special on the Choctaw people aims to inform the viewers of the rich Choctaw legacy going back hundreds of years in Mississippi. Just as important, the program highlights the link between Choctaw ancestors, present day Tribal Members, and future generations.

A production of MPB, *Mississippi Roads* presents the stories of amazing people, fascinating towns, unique festivals and hidden treasures throughout the Magnolia State. The television program airs every Thursday at 7 p.m. on MPB TV.

For more information on MPB and *Mississippi Roads*, visit www.mpbonline.org.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MI̱KO BEASLEY DENSON

Working the Angles for Housing

At an event with President Obama in New Orleans on August 29, I discussed the ongoing need for new housing in on our Reservation and funding for renovations of existing homes.

Building houses for Tribal members is a priority to me. I am pleased that we were able to leverage federal stimulus dollars to build 32 new properties in *Tiak Chitto*. I will continue to work with the Housing Authority and the Tribal Housing program to aggressively pursue housing funding, build more houses, and move more Tribal members into their own homes.

Plans are underway for a new mixed-use development of homes and retail space on the south side of Highway 16. Working with the Choctaw Housing Authority, the Office of Economic Development issued a Request for Qualifications from developers to assist in the building of affordable housing and a community retail center. Proposals are due in mid-October.

This development will go a long way toward meeting the need for affordable housing in Pearl River. And the 100 percent occupancy rate at the Choctaw Town Center, coupled with requests from businesses for additional space, confirm the need for additional retail space in Pearl River.

Senator Thad Cochran and I recently discussed our housing goals in Oxford. He will be visiting the Pearl River Community on October 18th. You can be sure I will revisit the issue with the Republican leader and that when it comes to housing I am covering all of our bases in Washington, D.C.

Even though the construction of 32 new homes in the Tiak Chitto subdivision is underway, I am not slowing down in my push to build more homes in my first four years in office than have been built in the last ten years.

CCHS Students Win National Title

Please take the time to read about the amazing things *alla cho pinta* are doing on pages 13 & 14 of this Community News. Their performances are inspiring and a positive sign for the future of the MBCI.

In July, the Choctaw Central High School Solar Car Team won the Hunt-Winston Solar Car Challenge, a cross-country race starting in Texas and ending in Colorado. Not only did this team employ advanced technology in building, maintaining and driving the car, they demonstrated the kind of teamwork that brings success.

Each member had a role to play and responsibilities to fulfill. Their weeks of hard work paid off in a win in the Advanced division and opportunity to participate in the World Solar Car Race in Australia in 2011. Good luck to our young people, Trisilla Willis, Tasha Laird, Kursten Watkins, Chris Watkins, Zach Renville and Josh Farmer and their mentors Joey Long, Liddia Hughes and Frankie Germany. Thank you for the honor you are bringing to our Tribe!

LEGO Team Vision Becomes Reality

On September 1, we held a ceremony to unveil our new school crossing sign in front of Choctaw Central Middle School on Highway 16 east. This sign and the increased safety of students that will result began with a presentation made by the CCMS LEGO Robotics Team in January.

The students on the team were Christian Deon, Simon Isaac, Jada Sockey, Ozzie Willis, Demarquis Wilson, Allandra York, and Malcolm York. They were advised by Paula Pankratz and Mike Moorehead. They recognized a dangerous situation for their peers who cross Highway 16 to get to school and they took action.

The results are a testament to teamwork and an example of how Tribal members, even the young ones, can create change in their communities by working through the correct channels. Their peers will be safer and the teams' dedication may even save lives. Thank you LEGO Team.

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, OCT. 1, AT 12 NOON.

DELEGATION .... continued from page one

drew approximately 200 guests and was widely covered in the local press.

The group also visited La Cumbre and Yauri Chambi for ceremonial events with local communities. The visit concluded at the Tiwanaku archeological site, where the U.S. delegation joined a group of Aymara spiritual leaders to participate in a sacred ritual at the temples of Kalasasaya and Putuni.

More than 500 Bolivians attended various activities during the six-day program conducted under the U.S. National Guard's State Partnership Program between Mississippi and Bolivia, managed by the Mississippi National Guard and the U.S. Embassy's Military Group Office.

Members of the delegation included, from left, Mark Majors, Faron Gardner, Joshua Breedlove, & Gilbert Thompson.

Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Continuation of Regular Meeting
July 29, 2010

Resolution CHO 10-098, confirming the appointment of Peggy Gibson as Senior Criminal Judge for the Choctaw Tribal Court, was adopted 15 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-099, confirming the appointment of Kevin Briscoe as Senior Youth Court Judge for the Choctaw Tribal Court, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-100, making an appointment to the Choctaw Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-101, approving a list of attorneys authorized to perform legal services for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-102, approving Choctaw Gaming Commission Gaming Facility Standards, was adopted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-103, granting authority to settle a Guest Tort Claim, was adopted 14 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-104, granting authority to settle Workers' Compensation Claim under Section 9 (i) of the Mississippi Workmans' Compensation Act, was adopted 10 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-105, approving Landlord's Waiver in favor of the First Avenue Partners II, L.P. for Pharma Pac, LLC, was adopted 12 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-106, approving a Form Contract Agreement with the Mississippi Department of Transportation and Delegation of Authority, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-107(b), to quitclaim the Tribe's interest in certain real property of 6.95 acres for a permanent right-of-way easement in the Tucker Community and to accept a fair market value offer from the Mississippi Department of Transportation, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-108(b), to quitclaim the Tribe's interest in certain real property of 0.72 of an acre for permanent right-of-way easement in the Tucker Community and to accept a fair market value offer from the Mississippi Department of Transportation, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-109, authorizing the dedication of a site for construction of a new communications tower in the Standing Pine Community, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-110, authorizing the dedication and assignment of a site for construction of a new communications tower in the Pearl River Community, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-111, approving a contract between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and IKBI Inc. for renovation and reconstruction of the parking lot at Choctaw Health Center, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-112(B), granting right of way easement and underground conductor agreement and electrical right of way to Central Electric Power Association in the Pearl River Community, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-113(B), granting road way easement to Harlan and Delia King in the Conehatta Community, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-114(B), amending and approving a three-year timber harvest schedule, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-115, accepting an award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Choctaw Youth Justice Center Implementing a Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands Youth Development Project, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-116, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Attorney General of the State of Mississippi to define their respective roles in implementing the Choctaw Language Election Information Plan, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-117, approving a programmatic agreement among the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Mississippi Power Company, the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer, North American Coal Corporation, Southern Company Services, Inc., the United States Corps of Engineers Mobile District and the United States Department of Energy, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-118(B), approving increase in blood degree and name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-119(B), approving Tribal enrollments, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

Special Call Meeting
August 31, 2010

Resolution CHO 10-120,

see RESOLUTIONS, pg. 6

Pearl River Resort®
Choctaw, MS

JOB FAIR FOR
TRIBAL MEMBERS IN THE
BOGUE HOMA COMMUNITY

Tribal Members age twenty-one (21) and over will have the chance to complete applications, have on-the-spot interviews and leave with a job offer!*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010
2 - 6 P.M.
BOGUE HOMA FACILITY BUILDING

A light meal will be provided at the conclusion of the Job Fair.

** Subject to a background check and the ability to obtain and maintain a gaming license issued by the Choctaw Gaming Commission.*

NEWS FROM THE Pearl River Resort®

Choctaw, MS

RESORT JOBS FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS IN BOGUE HOMA

The Resort will be holding a Job Fair on Thursday, October 21st for Tribal members living in the Bogue Homa community.

Tribal members ages 21 and over can complete applications and interview at the event. Job offers will be made the day of (subject to a background check and the ability to obtain and maintain a gaming license from the Choctaw Gaming Commission).

The job fair is from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Bogue Homa Facility Building with a light meal provided afterwards.

REMO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT TO SERVE BREAKFAST

Pearl River Resort continues to find ways to provide guests with more dining variety and selections. Already serving lunch and dinner, Remo's Italian Restaurant recently added breakfast to the menu.

"Remo's is a step above traditional Italian Restaurants," said Adrian Achatz, Director of Food and Beverage. "Not only can guests view their favorite sports teams on seven large screen displays while enjoying authentic Italian dishes like homestyle lasagna and shrimp scampi, but guests can also enjoy everything from rib eye steaks to hot wings and pizza. Now with the addition of the breakfast menu, we can serve our guests even more varieties of the foods they love."

A variety of breakfast options include:

- Scrambled eggs and omelets made to order with selections of sautéed mushrooms, Applewood bacon, diced ham, and assorted vegetables and cheeses;
- Grilled rib eye, sausage, country ham, biscuits and gravy;
- French toast, fresh baked muffins and buttermilk pancakes;
- Fresh fruits, yogurts, brown sugar oatmeal, skillet potatoes and buttered grits.

Remo's hours of operation are as follows:

Friday: 5 p.m.-11 p.m.;
Saturday: 7 a.m.-midnight;
Sunday: 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Pearl River Resort welcomes guests to enjoy a delicious dining experience at any one of the casino restaurants. For more information about the various fine dining and casual restaurants at Pearl River Resort visit pearlriverresort.com.

REMINDER TO TRIBAL MEMBERS

This is a reminder to tribal members about updating information for Tribal Distributions.

A common problem during the last distribution was the lack of proper identification. To pick-up a check on distribution day you must have at least one document showing your social security or tribal role number, such as a tribal ID or social security card. (Many drivers' license no longer has your social security number on them.) If you don't have any kind of ID, you need to get one.

Our procedure has not changed. We require a proper ID for each check to pick-up checks. If you are picking-up a check for your dependent, you need an ID for yourself and for your dependent. Make sure your tribal ID card is not expired. We do not accept letters authorizing you to pick up a check, unless you have a documented POWER OF ATTORNEY.

The Tribal Distribution Office must be notified in writing, by fax, email or mail, of any of the following changes:

- Change of address - even if you are planning to pick the check up at the distribution site, it is good to have a current address on file in case you are not able to pick up the check;
- Change of name - requires a copy of the new social security card and, if you also pick-up checks for minors, you need to list their names to have their BY designation changed;
- Change in adult authorized to pick-up minor's check;
- Change in the distribution of a minor's check, due to the death of the guardian or;
- All changes should be sent to: Tribal Distribution Office, P.O. Box 6090, Choctaw, MS 39350. You can also fax at (601) 650-1625 or e-mail to ewilliams@choctaw.org or cjohn@choctaw.org.

We encourage everyone to pick up their check on the distribution day to avoid worry about when your check will come in the mail. Checks not picked-up at the tribal distribution site are mailed the next day by regular mail.

Opponents Scramble To Derail Mississippi Casino

by DAVE PALERMO

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Gambling Compliance, Sept. 9, 2010 issue. Copyright 2010

Legal briefs are stacked high against Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour's efforts to halt construction of an American Indian casino in the state's Southeastern Bible Belt.

But that doesn't mean there isn't political hay to be reaped from the governor's long, heated summer of confrontation with Chief Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, head of the equally sovereign Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Barbour is mailing solicitation letters to Republican voters in Iowa in advance of the nation's first presidential caucus, a hint of his political ambitions when his second and final term as governor comes to a close in 2012.

Politico.com credits Barbour with "discreetly building a complex political operation rivaling those of any other 2012 GOP presidential prospect," including a leadership PAC with a war chest exceeding $425,000. The governor amassed leadership kudos following hurricane Katrina and the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The governor's strong, if apparently futile, stand against what he derisively refers to as a "slot parlor" in rural Jones County can't help but endear him to both the anti-gambling Religious Right and his staunch supporters who operate the state's 30 competing commercial casinos.

"All that flora and fauna aside," Jackson Clarion-Ledger columnist Sid Slater said of the governor's concern about the 'slot parlor's' impact on the environment, "it's clear why Barbour and other state officials want to stop the Choctaw's project – to protect the profit margin of the state-regulated casinos."

At least some opposition to the Choctaw casino "is rooted in politics," wrote Shelia Byrd in the Washington DC

..........continued next page

Examiner. “State officials have no authority to block the development on federally protected tribal land. The proposal does, however, create an opportunity for several elected officials…to make arguments that appeal to their voting base.”

“Haley’s job is governor, and that’s where his focus is,” said Henry Barbour, the governor’s nephew and principal in Capitol Resources LLC, a political consulting firm with a client list that includes Beau Rivage, Gold Strike Resort and other commercial casinos.

Meanwhile, the concrete foundation is poured for the $17m, 27,000-square-foot building that will house 750 slot machines, a quick-service restaurant and more than 200 workers.

The project is on the Bogue Homa Reservation, land held in federal trust for the Choctaw Band, and state Attorney General Jim Hood said the project is legal under terms of a tribal-state gambling agreement signed 18 years ago by then-tribal Chief Phillip Martin and former Gov. Kirk Fordice.

Under terms of the Martin-Fordice compact Choctaw casinos are not subject to state taxes or regulation by the Mississippi Gaming Commission, which oversees commercial casinos.

“Lawyers in our office carefully reviewed possible legal challenges,” Hood said. “There is no apparent legal avenue to stop the development.”

“We’re totally focused on getting the thing done,” said Warren Strain, spokesman for Choctaw’s Pearl River Resort, two upscale hotel-casinos on the tribe’s main reservation in upstate Neshoba County.

Barbour is not conceding defeat. In an Aug. 26 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency he said the project’s wastewater system “jeopardizes the safety of the water supply” for the reservation and nearby communities.

Strain said Barbour’s letter referred to outdated project specifications that have since been rectified.

“The tribe has adopted the EPA-recommended wastewater treatment system,” Strain said. “We are in ongoing consultation with EPA officials to ensure compliance with all environmental regulations.”

The Choctaw Tribal Council voted 8-7 to build the casino. A tribal court judge later rejected a petition to put the issue to a referendum of tribal citizens.

Public meetings to discuss the casino generated heated opposition from citizens of nearby Sandersville and Laurel. But newspaper polls and letters to the editor have revealed support for the project.

Unlike most of the 240 tribes operating casinos in the lower 48 states, the Choctaw do not share casino revenue with the state of Mississippi. But the tribal government and its business enterprises employ 6,000 people, making it one of the state’s 10 largest private employers. The tribe has reinvested more than $500m in economic development projects.

Dan Turner, Barbour’s press secretary, said the governor and Denson have had discussions. Turner said the governor told Denson the operation in Bogue Homa would be “a prefab slot parlor,” unlike the tribe’s upscale Pearl River Resort, with golf courses and a man-made lake and water park.

“It violates the spirit of the compact,” Turner said of the smaller casino.

Denson said the casino is an example of Choctaw sovereignty and self-determination.

“Gov. Fordice had the wisdom, vision and courage to sign the compact, recognizing the sovereignty of this tribe and the positive impacts gaming provides to the tribal government (and) beyond the tribe’s borders,” Denson said.

“Although there is disagreement among state leaders with our decision, we will continue to work with our allies at the federal, state and local level to make this project a win-win.”

Aldermen rip street budget again

by DEBBIE BURT MYERS,
Managing Editor
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A proposed city budget approved Tuesday night reflects a $528,850 shortfall and for the second year in a row provides no funding for overlaying streets.

Aldermen will also implement a hiring freeze and won’t fill positions when they are vacated.

Cuts will be made to every department, but no layoffs are anticipated, officials said.

A public hearing on the final budget has been set for Sept. 7 at 6 p.m.

Ward 2 Aldermen Roy White voiced the lone opposition to the proposed budget after the four other aldermen removed $300,000 earmarked for street paving.

Aldermen worked for more than two hours to slash what was initially a $1.3 million shortfall.

They estimated that the hiring freeze alone would save about $200,000 in salaries and benefits should four or five positions become vacant and not be refilled over the year.

Ward 1 Aldermen Joe Tullos compared the budget to a pie.

“We’ve got to feed the same amount of people with a smaller pie,” he said. “The city is going to take a hit this year and we are going to have to make wise decisions.”

Pledging to vote against a budget with a large deficit, Tullos compared making financial decisions for city government to those made in a household when a shortfall is imminent.

“I don’t run my house that way and I’m not going to do the city’s or the taxpayers’ money that way,” he said.

Tullos told aldermen that it was their job to make city government smaller through such things as attrition.

White agreed, saying it was time for the city to live within its means.

However, he voiced concern that no money would be targeted for street paving for the second consecutive year.

“We need to fund basic city services first, like the police, fire, street, cemetery and landfill,” he said.

White asked the board to consider further cuts to the budgets of such organizations as the Arts Council, historical museum, Main Street and the historic preservation committee so that some streets could be paved in the new year.

“These are wonderful programs. They do great things for the city,” he said. “It’s not what we want to do but it’s a numbers game. We don’t have a choice.”

He pointed out that he would not vote for further cuts to the Boys and Girls Club, the public library and the parks because it would have an impact on the city’s children.

Alderman-at-Large Janice Payne reminded White that the Main Street Association brings money into the city.

“They provide a service to the city,” she said.

Tullos agreed, noting the recent charrette provided valuable data for city and county leaders to utilize.

At one point during the work session, Payne asked aldermen to consider a pay raise for employees.

“I really would like to give our employees a small raise,” she said. “They really deserve it.”

Earlier in the meeting, White quizzed Payne as to why she recommended in August that the city building official be given a $2 an hour raise to serve as an Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator for the city.

Payne responded that the ADA coordinator position was separate from his other position.

“What if he didn't take that job?” she asked.

White told aldermen that

...see ALDERMEN, pg. 6

RESOLUTIONS .... continued from page three

approving FY 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets for Ordinance 56 Enterprises, was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposing, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-121, approving FY 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, was adopted 13 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-122, authorizing the dedication and assignment of and to approve the execution of service line agreements for rights-of-way for installation and maintenance of utility service lines across Choctaw Reservation Land for the use and benefit of the Tribe in the Bogue Homa Community, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-123, approving a Water Tank Attachment Agreement between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Deep South Communication, LLC, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-124, confirming an appointment to the Choctaw Legal Defense Policy Board, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-125, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to enter into a contract with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs under Public Law 93-638 for Pavement Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Projects for existing paved roads within the eight communities of the Choctaw Indian Reservation, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-126, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Community Transportation Association of America, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Special Call Meeting
September 30, 2010

Resolution CHO 10-127, approving FY 2011 Budgets for Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies and Operations, was adopted 12 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-128(B), authorizing Choctaw Housing Authority to receive donated 50 FEMA/MEMA Cottages with approved site locations on Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation Lands, was adopted 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-129, approving the 2010-2011 Wildlife Proclamation to regulate hunting and fishing on Tribal Lands, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-130, approving expenditure plan for Forest Management Deductions, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-131, amending Resolution CHO 10-093, *“A Resolution to Accept an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant to Fund Certain Industrial Renovations and to Amend the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise's Capital Budget to Allow for Matching Funds”*, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-132, reauthorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to participate in a Nationwide Elder Needs Assessment, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-133, applying for a Special Diabetes Program Initiative (Two-Year) Project for Choctaw Health Department, Choctaw Special Diabetes Prevention Program, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-134, approving house sites for Choctaw Housing Authority, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-135, granting right-of-way easement to AT&T Telecommunications, Inc. in the Standing Pine Community, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-136, donating Tribal surplus equipment, was tabled 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-137, approving increase in blood degree and name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 10-138, approving Tribal enrollments, was adopted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Class reunion date set for CCHS 1968 graduating class

Dear Classmates,

It has been years since our graduation and much has happened to us and to our world since 1968. Our class reunion would be a perfect time for us to get together and re-connect and share our memories and have fun. An invitation will be forthcoming, but we would like to take this opportunity to personally invite everyone who graduated from Choctaw Central High School in 1968 to our class reunion to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Choctaw Mississippi on October 23, 2010.

When you receive your invitation, please RSVP:

Louise Wilson
Shirley Ben
Doris Ann Thompson
Cecil Steve

Come and join our classmates for an evening of memories and fun.

ALDERMEN .... continued from page five

the building official could not be as busy as in years past because there had been a major decrease in his office issuing such things as permits for new residential and commercial construction, among other permits.

“Whose fault is that?” Payne asked.

White said it was because of the economy.

“But, he’s doing less work and less inspections,” White said. “That’s the workload.”

White and the other aldermen voted unanimously to grant the building official the salary increase at the Aug. 3 meeting.

Toward the end of Monday’s work session, Mayor James A. Young said, “The reality is unless money falls out of the sky, the budget situation is going to be the same next Tuesday night.”

All the aldermen verbally agreed to the proposed budget except for White.

They will formally adopt a FY 2010 budget after the public hearing.

This will be the third consecutive year the city has ended the year with a deficit, although the city has about $5 million in reserves.

The city faces a projected $445,000 shortfall in revenue for FY 2010, which was attributed to a drop in the city's assessed value which will bring a decrease in ad valorem tax collections, as well as a state-mandated reduction in homestead reimbursements.

The city’s assessed value as of Jan. 1, 2010, was $61,069,034, compared to a year earlier when it was at $63,812,58

Anderson Regional Medical Center recognized for patient safety, patient experience

Meridian, Miss. - Anderson Regional Medical Center has been ranked as one of the top hospitals in the nation in two important areas and is being recognized for its achievements by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization.

The hospital ranked in the top 5 percent of U.S. hospitals for patient safety and in the top 10 percent of U.S. hospitals in patient experience. Of the almost 5,000 hospitals surveyed, Anderson Regional Medical Center is among only 30 institutions nationwide to receive awards in both of these categories, at 5 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

In a study released by HealthGrades, Anderson Regional Medical Center was one of only 238 hospitals in the nation to receive the HealthGrades 2010 Patient Safety Excellence Award. The award is given based on the incidence rates of 15 patient safety indicators among Medicare patients at virtually all of the nation's nearly 5,000 non-federal hospitals.

The HealthGrades 2010-2011 Outstanding Patient Experience Award was given on the basis of surveys of patients shortly after discharge to ascertain their experience on a range of issues, from communication with doctors and nurses to cleanliness and pain management.

Anderson Regional Medical Center was the only recipient of both the Patient Safety Excellence and Outstanding Patient Experience awards in Meridian.

Ray Humphreys, President/CEO, Anderson Regional Medical Center, said both of these achievements are the result of the dedication and focus of the entire hospital staff.

"The patient safety award comes from an exhaustive analysis of hospital records, and the patient experience award reflects the real-life experiences of our patients," Humphreys said. "Both awards are based on a solid and consistent focus on our patients, plus the services we provide for them. I am enormously proud of our staff and the important role our hospital plays in providing for the medical needs of the people of our region."

HealthGrades Commends Anderson

Rick May, MD, a HealthGrades vice president, commended Anderson Regional Medical Center for both achievements. Concerning patient safety, Dr. May said, "Hospitals like Anderson Regional Medical Center are setting benchmarks of superior performance that we would like to see other hospitals emulate."

On patient experience, Dr. May said, "There are a select group of hospitals that have made a top-to-bottom commitment to providing their patients with an outstanding patient experience as part of their overall commitment to quality. Members of the community should take pride in knowing that, should they need it, there's a hospital in their area that puts patients first."

Anderson Regional Medical Center is the largest medical facility in East Mississippi/West Alabama and was founded in 1928. Anderson established the area's first cardiovascular surgery program surgery program in 1986, has the only regional Cancer Center in the area and features a Level III Trauma Emergency Room.

HealthGrades Patient Safety Excellence Award

The seventh annual *HealthGrades Patient Safety in American Hospitals* study analyzed nearly 40 million hospitalization records from approximately 5,000 hospitals nationwide that participate in the Medicare program. Participation in the HealthGrades study is not voluntary, and hospitals cannot choose to opt out of the analysis.

If all hospitals performed at the level of the Patient Safety Excellence Award hospitals like Anderson Regional Medical Center, approximately 218,572 patient safety events and 22,590 Medicare deaths could have been avoided while saving the U.S. approximately $2.1 billion in excess costs from 2006 through 2008.

The annual *HealthGrades Patient Safety in American Hospitals* study applies methodology developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to identify safety indicators among Medicare patients.

Additionally, HealthGrades applies its methodology using 12 patient safety indicators to identify the best-performing hospitals, or Patient Safety Excellence Award Hospitals, which represent the top 5 percent of all U.S. hospitals. HealthGrades developed this award to give patients more information about choosing a hospital.

In the HealthGrades analysis, the following are the patient safety indicators studied:

- Complications of anesthesia
- Death in low mortality Diagnostic Related Groupings (DRGs)
- Decubitis ulcer (bed sores)
- Death among surgical inpatients with serious treatable complications
- Iatrogencic pneumothorax (collapsed lung)
- Selected infections due to medical care
- Post-operative hip fracture
- Post-operative hemorrhage or hematoma
- Post-operative physiologic and metabolic derangements
- Post-operative respiratory

......see ANDERSON, pg. 8

Anderson welcomes new rheumatologist

Dr. Drew Huffman

Anderson Regional Medical Center welcomes Drew M. Huffman, D.O., who will be practicing at the Anderson Arthritis and Rheumatology Center.

"We are pleased to have Dr. Huffman in Meridian," said L. Ray Humphreys, President and CEO, "He will be filling a much-needed specialty for our community."

Dr. Huffman brings his unique expertise to the diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune diseases, degenerative arthritis, osteoporosis and other processes that can affect the muscles, joints and bones.

Dr. Huffman attended Des Moines University and received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree in 1997. He then completed the University of Kansas Internal Medicine residency in 2000 and went on to complete a two-year fellowship in the field of Rheumatology at the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Board Eligible in Rheumatology. He is married and has six children.

The Anderson Arthritis and Rheumatology Center is a wellness-based practice that approaches health care by focusing on providing patients with assistance in achieving a higher quality of life through aggressive attention to rheumatologic disease processes and arthritic conditions. Dr. Huffman's clinic is located at 2124 14th Street on the 4th Floor of Medical Towers II.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

This picture represents one of the many children who are currently under Children and Family Services who would like to have a sponsor for Christmas.

Each year Children and Family Services search for sponsor or sponsors for our foster children to fulfill their Christmas wish list.

To any group, organization, programs, churches or individual who might be interested in sponsoring a child or children for Christmas, please contact the Children & Family Services Office between the hours of 8:00 A.M. -4:30 P.M., Monday-Friday.

For more information, contact Kirsten Clegg or any staff member at 601-650-1741

Yakoki - Regina Shoemake, Foster Care Coordinator

SURGERY

continued from page one

plex heart surgeries done in children, and it's the first time it has ever been performed in the state of Mississippi," Salazar said. "This surgery represents the fact that we offer all congenital heart services here in Mississippi with excellent results."

Since joining the Medical Center in April, Salazar and the congenital heart team have operated on 55 children with heart defects – all with excellent outcomes.

Georgianna Joe noticed her youngest son Zavin's strange breathing when he was three days old. "I could see his stomach going in and out, in and out. He was breathing heavy," she said.

The mother of two older sons, ages 8 and 9, couldn't shake her concern, so she told a nurse, who alerted a physician.

"He told me when he listened to his heart, he heard an echo. They said his oxygen level was low," Joe said.

A short time later, an AirCare crew flew to Laurel to bring Zavin to the University of Mississippi Medical Center for a thorough examination. The diagnosis: transposition of the great vessels and a ventricular septal defect.

Transposition of the great vessels reverses the way blood circulates through the body, reducing the amount of oxygen in the blood. Without adequately oxygenated blood, the body can't function properly.

In other words, Zavin was born with two major heart vessels switched and a hole in his heart.

"I remember when they told me. I just cried a lot," Joe said. "But we had lots of prayers."

Before Salazar joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Zavin and his mother would have had to abruptly leave the state and fly to another medical center to repair the defects. Instead, they made UMMC and Mississippi history.

Dr. Giorgio Aru, professor of surgery and heart transplant surgeon, said UMMC continues its legacy as a frontrunner in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

"For many years, the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery has been actively looking for a national leader in pediatric cardiac surgery totally dedicated to the creation and leadership of a pediatric cardiac center," he said. "We were finally able to recruit Dr. Salazar, who has the skills and the vision necessary to place the University of Mississippi Medical Center at the same level of the major centers in the country for pediatric cardiac

..........continued next page

ANDERSON

continued from page seven

failure

- Post-operative pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis
- Post-operative sepsis
- Post-operative abdominal wound dehiscence
- Accidental puncture or laceration
- Transfusion reaction

HealthGrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award

The patient experience surveys are standardized and issued to patients within 48 hours of leaving the hospital as part of the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) initiative from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This analysis by HealthGrades utilized HCAHPS surveys collected between July 2008 and June 2009 and found that patients at hospitals ranked in the top 15 percent were 50 percent more likely to recommend the hospital to family and friends, compared with hospitals ranked in the bottom 15 percent. The same percentage - 50 percent - were more likely to rate the overall experience as a 99 or 10, on a scale of 1 to 10, than patients at hospitals ranked in the bottom 15 percent.

Additionally, a higher percentage of patients and hospitals ranked in the top 15 percent said their rooms were always kept quiet, they always received help from the staff quickly and staff always explained their medications to them prior to administering them.

The HCAHPS survey questions assessed patients' experience in the following 10 categories:

1. Overall rating: How do patients rate the hospital overall?
2. Recommendation to family/friends: Would patients recommend the hospital to friends and family?
3. Communication with doctors: How often did doctors communicate well with patients?
4. Communication with nurses: How often did nurses communicate well with patients?
5. Responsiveness of hospital staff: How often did patients receive help quickly from hospital staff?
6. Pain management: How often was patient's pain well controlled?
7. Communication about medicines: How often did staff explain medicines before giving them to patients?
8. Discharge information: Were patients given information about what to do during their recovery at home? (This question was the only yes/no measure.)
9. Cleanliness: How often were the patients' rooms and bathrooms kept clean?
10. Quietness: How often was the area around patients' rooms kept quiet at night?

care."

Joe said support from hospital staff helped her cope with stress during what's typically a joyous time. Often, her husband, Roberto Arellano, had to work and care for the other children while she remained at the hospital.

"It was scary at first, but whatever that would help him survive, we had to do it," she said.

Salazar said the congenital heart program is just one way the Medical Center is working to improve children's health.

For that, Joe said she was grateful. Zavin's heart is now completely normal, and he will have the opportunity for a normal life.

Hospital beds have been Zavin's only home since his birth July 21. Joe looks forward to taking her now 1-month-old son to meet family and friends for the first time and to finally sleep in his own bed.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice.

UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training.

The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's citizens.

A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at http://info.umc.edu/.

CHD Dental Program welcomes visitors

The Choctaw Health Department's Dental Program welcomed three visitors recently. Brian Ko and Cindy Ong, of SAIC, and Bob Busuttil of Henry Schein, Inc., made a site assessment of the Choctaw Health Department's dental clinics in preparation for the dental program's plan to computerize their operations.

Installation of new computer equipment is slated to begin in late September. In mid-October, the dental program will undergo intensive training in the dental office computer software, which promises to improve the overall services of the dental program.

One of the new changes that will be instituted will be digital x-rays at the Choctaw Health Center's dental clinic. Digital x-rays use less x-rays than conventional x-rays and will be safer for patients. It is hoped that digital x-rays can be added to the Red Water clinic later this year, completing the transformation to digital x-rays in all CHD dental clinics.

It is estimated that there will be a 3-4 week learning period for the new software. The Choctaw Health Department urges all our dental patients to have patience as the dental staff adapts to new and improved operating procedures.

CHD's SDPI awarded grant

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is recognized by the IHS National Diabetes Program as an eligible Special Diabetes Program Initiative participant. Recently, funds were made available and the Choctaw Health Department (CHD) applied for a grant to fund the current SDPI Program for two additional years.

On Thursday, Sept. 30, CHD Director Mr. Gary Ben received word that Mississippi Choctaw has been awarded the grant. CHD's SDPI Program received an award letter for the amount of $397,100 to continue their efforts to prevent diabetes.

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians Demonstration Project has been in existence since 2004. Director/Instructor Sharron Thompson and her team of eight have worked hard to help their participants maintain a diabetes-free life through intensive activities. Over four hundred people have been tested and 140 have been diagnosed as having pre-diabetes.

The team uses the curriculum "Healthy Lifestyle Balance" developed by the Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention.

The SDPI program serves Native Americans, over 18 years of age who do not have diabetes. There are over 1,800 Tribal members who have diabetes. If you are not one of them who has diabetes, come get tested to see if you have pre-diabetes.

If you are interested in becoming a participant of the SDPI Program, call 601.389.6359 and talk with anyone in the office. They will give you instructions on how to get into the program.

Screenings held at Tucker Elementary

On Tuesday, Sept. 28, Choctaw Diabetes Prevention staff member Nana Frazier was at Tucker Elementary School to perform blood glucose screening on all students in grades 1st-8th. This is done in conjunction with the Diabetes Prevention Program and the Tribal schools to screen the students for possibility of undiagnosed diabetes. Early diagnosis and treatment of diabetes in young students can prevent some of the complications associated with Type 2 diabetes. Pictured, from left, are Nana Frazier, Bridgette Farve, Christopher Hunter, Kristianna McCombs, Shykim Chickaway, and Leilani Charlie.

DID YOU KNOW?

White flour contains diabetes-causing contaminant alloxan. You may want to think twice before eating your next sandwich on white bread.

Studies show that alloxan, the chemical that makes white flour look "clean" and "beautiful," destroys the beta cells of the pancreas. That's right; you may be devastating your pancreas and putting yourself at risk for diabetes, all for the sake of eating "beautiful" flour. Is it worth it?

Source: http://www.organicconsumers.org/foodsafety/alloxan06160

Mother, daughter complete 100 miles!

Angeline Hickman, left, & Tamara Hathorne.

Angeline Hickman and Tamara Hathorne signed up to participate in the Diabetes Prevention 100 Mile Club in July 2010. The program allows individuals to complete 100 miles within a six month period. Both Angeline and Tamara completed the 100 miles within a two and a half month period instead.

Tamara accomplished her goal averaging three to four miles per week, three days a week. Angeline accomplished her goal averaging one and a half to two miles per week, four days a week. Through their hard work and achievement, they received a few incentives that were being offered by the program. Congratulations to you both!

The Diabetes Prevention 100 Mile Club is a walk/run exercise program for individuals ages 4 and older. The goal of each participant is to reach 100 miles within a six month period from the time you sign up. Participants may sign up any time of the season they wish to participate.

Individuals are held responsible for maintaining and documenting their own personal record sheet. Upon completing 10, 25, 50, 75, and 100 miles, the participant will receive incentives that are currently being offered.

If you or anyone you know are interested in participating, please come by the Diabetes Prevention Program in the Choctaw Health Center building, or call 601.389.6354 for more information on how you can sign up.

From the Division of Early Childhood Education

DOECE children participate in several activities offered at the centers.

We have started a new school year at the Choctaw Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care Programs. We are happy to see all the new faces and we welcome back all the returning children. We are looking forward to an exciting year full of many activities and new learning adventures for our children to participate in.

Just a reminder that it's not too late to turn in an application. Many of the centers have reached their full enrollment, but a wait list will be maintained to pick up children as slots become available. For more information, contact your local early childhood center or call the DOECE enrollment office at 601-650-1716.

Activities to Engage in With Your Child in the Family Room

The family room can be a place for both quiet and noisy activities. Your children will develop their social skills by learning how to be by themselves or how to be part of a family group. Tell your children which items in the room are on the "Be Careful Touching" or "Do Not Touch" list. These are activities to build both large and small muscles. The family room is a busy place!

Activities

Talk About Sounds

- Ask your children to point to the direction of the sound and describe it.
- Ask your children to tell you about all the things that make loud or soft sounds, such as the TV, the radio, etc.
- Sing songs together: old favorites, nursery rhymes. Use a wooden spoon or thick stick as a microphone.

Talk About:

..........continued next page

Family emergency preparedness easy as 1-2-3

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - After the record-setting storms & floods in the spring, Tennesseans showed their determination & ability to respond after a disaster. Now is the time to respond before a disaster by being prepared.

"Tennessee's ability to recover is greater if people are sufficiently prepared," said James Bassham, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). "That means, among other things, having a plan in place before an emergency situation occurs."

Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared & may make all the difference when seconds count. Preparedness can reduce fear & anxiety as well as reduce losses. Simple steps can make a big difference in ensuring the safety & well-being of loved ones.

"We encourage everyone to ensure their family is ready in the event of another disaster," said Federal Coordinating Officer Gracia Szczech. "While creating a family preparedness plan involves a little time, it is an easy process that can save lives."

The website **www.Ready.gov** breaks down the process for preparing for any emergency into three easy steps:

1. Get a kit. Have enough food, water & essential supplies to last three days. Include medicine, copies of prescriptions, flashlights, extra batteries, blankets, first aid supplies, personal hygiene items, appropriate seasonal clothing, cash, a battery operated or crank radio, a weather radio, cell phones & chargers, important documents, & other supplies your family may need.

2. Make a plan. Decide how your family members should contact each other if you're apart when the disaster occurs, where you will go if you need to leave home, & where you will gather inside the home (e.g., a safe room or basement). Establish an out-of-town contact. It's also a good idea to have a list of important phone numbers (family, schools, care providers, doctors, insurance agents, employers, etc.). Practice your plan.

3. Stay informed. Learn about disasters that could occur where you live (tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, etc.) & how to prepare for them. Preparedness should account for all types of disasters - both natural & man-made.

In addition to providing help developing an emergency plan, the website www.Ready.gov is multi-lingual & also features:

- An interactive "Ready Kids" section with games & information for children;
- Information for special groups such as older Americans, people with disabilities, military families & pet owners;
- A locator to learn about emergency plans that have been established by state & local governments; and
- Online emergency-preparedness tools.

- The names of all the furniture in the room, such as the lamp, table, and couch.
- Family stories about the children's grandparents, family histories, and when your children were babies.
- The things your children make.
- Your children’s favorite TV shows.

Many of the DOECE centers participated in American Indian Day events along with their local Tribal School. We congratulate all contestants and winners.

We were excited to sponsor a float in the Choctaw Central High School Homecoming Parade. Our float theme was “Music Stars of the 80's”, and the children that were selected to participate all dressed as music stars of that era. Even the division staff participated and showed their 80’s spirit. Thanks to all the parents that participated!

At the Division of Early Childhood Education, we feel that it is important to carry on the traditions of the Choctaw Culture and we want to give our children the chance to demonstrate one of the the many aspects of our culture, and that is the tradition of the Choctaw Social Dances.

We are proud to announce our 20th annual Chata Ayopachi Nittak, or Choctaw Celebration Day, will be held on Thursday, October 21, 2010, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Silver Star Conference Center. We look forward to having the children perform for their peers and their elders. It will be an exciting event and we plan to feed all in attendance a hearty meal at the end of the performances. Everyone is welcome to attend and we hope to see you there!

Remember that all early childhood programs take in applications year-round, and if you have a child ages 8 weeks to 4 years in need of child care services, please do not hesitate to contact us at 601-650-1680, and we will give you more information. Children with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

LEFT, *a young Michael Jackson impersonator.* **BELOW**, *several DOECE kids participate in the homecoming parade.*

MUSIC OF THE 80'S

Several DOECE staff members get into the 80’s spirit as they walked alongside the float tossing out treats to onlookers.

Is your child ready to learn?
Put in an application for
Early Childhood today!

We provide learning opportunities for child development for children ages 8 weeks to 5 years.

For more information, contact your local Early Childhood Center:

Bogue Chitto 601-656-7224
*Bogue Homa 601-425-4044
Conehatta 601-775-3845
*Crystal Ridge 662-779-0632
Pearl River Day Care 601-656-9221
Pearl River Head Start 601-650-1719
Pearl River Early Head Start 601-389-2899
Red Water 601-298-9282
Standing Pine 601-298-1580
Tucker 601-389-2053

*Immediate enrollment available

NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Cultural Preservation Program takes pride in promoting the culture of the Choctaw people to the community at large. The month of August was filled with exciting opportunities for the program to educate the public about the life ways of the Tribe.

......see CPP NEWS, pg. 12

The Choctaw Journey was performed at the 3rd Annual Nanih Way Celebration atop the Nanih Waiya cave site on Aug. 13.

CPP NEWS .... continued from page eleven

Pictured above is a scene related to the removal period from Choctaw Journey.

ENCORE! ENCORE!

Choctaw Journey, a production about the ancestral Mother Mound, Nanih Waiya, was performed during the Nanih Waiya Day Celebration. The cast and crew volunteered their time for this special presentation.

Storytelling in Standing Pine

CPP Staff members, Melissa Argueta, Priscilla Williams and Andrew Willis (as "Shawi"), visited Standing Pine Elementary School on August 12, 2010. The Pre-K and Kindergarten classes listened to a presentation on Nanih Waiya, the Mother Mound, featuring the story "Tachi Isht Annopa."

Digital Storytelling Workshop

The Indigenous Language Institute of Santa Fe, New Mexico traveled to Choctaw the week of August 16-20, 2010 to present "Story Telling with Technology - Digital Storytelling Workshop." CPP staff members were provided with technical skills to create printed materials and video pieces in the Choctaw language.

MPB's *Mississippi Roads* Visits CPP

On August 28, 2010, Priscilla Williams of CPP, pictured above left, was interviewed by Lee Brown. It will be featured on *Mississippi Roads*, which airs on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Television Thursday evenings at 7:00 and Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

BELOW, *CPP staff members, pictured right, participated in a digital storytelling workshop conducted by the Indigenous Language Institute of Santa Fe, NM on Aug. 16-20*

LEFT, *CPP staff members Melissa Argueta, left, & Priscilla Williams, right, assist a student during a presentation.*
BELOW, *Standing Pine students pose with Shawi.*

Photo collection of Choctaws of 1925 posted online

Photographs of Mississippi Choctaws from 1925 can be viewed online courtesy of the National Anthropological Archives in the Smithsonian Institute.

This small collection contains 42 images of Mississippi Choctaw men and women living near Philadelphia, Mississippi in 1925. The photographs were taken by Smithsonian archaeologist Henry Bascom Collins.

Included in these photographs are images of: Henry Jim, Milton Jimmy, Eli Willis, John Charlie, Francis Tubbee, Will Jim, Louisa Jim, Will Wilson, Thompson Barney, Katie Joshua, Mole Tubbee, Lila Rockey, Irving Rockey, Dick Tubbee, Jackson Jim, David Jim, Vardaman Stribling, Jim Gardner, Edward Lewis, Jim Isaac, Wilson Jim, Martha Jim, Kelly Chickaway, Jacob Dausby, Jourdan Billy, Will Jimmy, Simon Isaac, and Charles Tubbee.

All images in this collection have been digitized and can be viewed online. To view, navigate to: http://siris-archives.si.edu and enter "ms 4974" in the general keyword search box to view these images.

To search for other Choctaw photographs and manuscript materials at the National Anthropological Archives, enter "choctaw" in the gen-

......................continued next page

Tribal officials, students unveil school crossing sign

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held a ceremony on Wednesday, September 1, 2010, for the unveiling of a school crossing sign located on Highway 16 East. The placement of this sign, and of others in the area, is a result of a presentation made by Tribal students to officials earlier this year.

The sign is located between the Pow-Wow Convenience Store and Oswald Road in Choctaw. In attendance were officials with the Tribal administration, Choctaw Tribal Schools and members of the Choctaw Central Middle School's (CCMS) LEGO Robotics Team.

What started as a safety project entry for the CCMS LEGO Robotics Team in the Choctaw Tribal Schools' First LEGO League Tournament in Nov. 2009 went beyond competition and into legislation that benefits the Choctaw people.

"This new caution sign is going up and I want to applaud the students that were not only thinking for themselves, but also for the community. Us adults didn't even think about it, but you kids did. That tells us that we have fine teachers, fine students, and fine academics, all the things we strive for in education and you are exemplary of the kind of thinking we need to do for Choctaws," said Tribal Mi̱ko Beasley Denson.

Members of the robotics team initially presented their findings to representatives from the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and to the Tribal Education Committee. In the presentation, students cited a need for signs to indicate a safe school zone and safe pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Highway 16 and Oswald Road in the Pearl River Community.

The intersection is located on a busy four-lane highway and is used by pedestrians and motorists to get to school, daycare centers, work, and the Choctaw Health Center.

The team's solution was to install a pedestrian crossing signal, install signs to indicate a safe school zone and safe pedestrian crossing, and install overhead pedestrian crossing.

MDOT officials informed students that a letter of request from the Tribal Mi̱ko's Office needed to be submitted to MDOT.

On Jan. 22, 2010, the team made their presentation to Mi̱ko Denson. He then commended the students for their efforts and assured them that their efforts would be rewarded with results.

Members of the CCMS LEGO Robotics Team are Simon Isaac, DeMarquis Wilson, Malcolm York, Allandra York, Christain Deon, Jada Sockey, and Ozzie Willis.

SCHOOL
SPEED LIMIT 45
WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT

Members of Choctaw Central Middle School's (CCMS) LEGO Robotics Team, along with Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and Choctaw Tribal School officials, unveil the new school crossing sign near the intersection of Highway 16 East and Oswald Road in Choctaw.

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eral keyword search box.

If you have any comments or corrections regarding these online records, please contact: Gina Rappaport, Photo Archivist by e-mail at rappaportg@si.edu, or call (301) 238-1322.

For more information, contact the National Anthropological Archives by e-mail at naa@si.edu, call (301) 238-1310 or through their website, http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/

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SUN WARRIOR SHINES!

CCHS Solar Car Team... National Champions!

by Frankie Germany

While other teenagers were out having fun during the summer months, the Choctaw Central High School Solar Car Project Team was hard at work at the Occupational Training Center.

These students built a bat-

...see SOLAR CAR, pg. 14

TUSHKA
Choctaw, Mississippi
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
2010
WINSTON SCHOOL
Hunt
SOLAR CAR CHALLE

CCHS Solar Car Team members honored at homecoming game

Current and past members of the CCHS Solar Car Team were honored during pre-game homecoming festivities on Oct. 1 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw. Pictured, kneeling from left, were Daniel Dixon, Mary Bell, Shawn Lewis, Kursten Watkins, Shaun Smith (2005-06 member); standing, Jason Roberson (mentor), Liddia Hughes (mentor), Frankie Germany (mentor), Belinda Long, Destiny Tubby, Tashia Laird, Joey long (mentor), & Tia Anderson (2007-09 member), Not pictured were members Zach Billie, Chris Watkins & Josh Farmer.

SOLAR CAR

continued from page thirteen

tery box in the solar car, wired and rewired the thirty new lithium ion batteries, added a new battery monitoring system, revamped the driver canopy, tested tires, and test drove the vehicle. They programmed the race route into the computer, diagramed the electrical system for scrutineering, and practiced safety maneuvers in preparation for the Hunt-Winston Solar Car Challenge this past July.

The Hunt-Winston Solar Car Challenge is the product of the Winston Solar Education program and includes both track and cross-country races. The 2010 race was a cross-country race beginning on July 18 at the Texas Motor Speedway in Ft. Worth, Texas and ending on July 25 at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

A total of 12 solar powered vehicles from across the nation participated in the race. These cars were divided into three divisions - Advanced, Open and Classic. Tushka Hashi III, the CCHS solar car, competed in the Advanced Division.

The concept of working as a team began with the months of work on the solar car and crystallized during the race. Every person had a responsibility and those responsibilities varied daily.

At the team meeting each night, the co-captains, team members, and mentors Joey Long, Liddia Hughes and Frankie Germany made decisions about who had each responsibility for the following day.

The three girls were the drivers, but when not driving, they also had jobs such as safety person, judge liaison, and navigator.

The boys were in charge of safety, judge liaison, auxiliary battery preparation, radios, and general maintenance on the vehicle. By the end of the trip, the team had become such a cohesive unit that the mentors had little to decide; the team took care of it on their own.

These students took ownership of the entire project and race and became mature and responsible young adults. This was only one of the many benefits of the solar car experience.

Tasha Laird, one of the co-captains, said she learned much more than just the science of mechanical or electrical engineering.

“The experiences of meeting the public, speaking to strangers, developing self-confidence, and working as a team are some of the most important parts of the solar car experience. I know this has helped me to prepare for college,” Laird said.

During the race, all teams were required to stop at designated towns for a morning break, lunch, and an afternoon break before reaching the daily destination. At these towns, chambers of commerce, clubs and organizations often had water and refreshments for the team as they displayed the cars for the public.

News reporters and radio personalities interviewed the teams. Kursten Watkins and Joey Long were on live radio for approximately 15 minutes at a lunch stop in Hereford, Texas. Kursten impressed the crowd with the confidence and composure of a television anchor woman while on the radio.

Tushka Hashi III received a great deal of attention at each stop due to its aerodynamic design and the fact that it was the first car to reach each destination. As a result, team members were asked all manner of questions about the car and the race.

Zach Renville, Chris Watkins and Josh Farmer all became adept at answering questions while putting kindergarten children into the seat of the car for photo opportunities. The students handed out over 600 Tushka Hashi III brochures in five states, informing all who saw the car and read the brochure about the unparalleled solar car program at CCHS and proving the intelligence and expertise of these dedicated young ambassadors for the Tribe.

One reporter was amazed that words like acid battery, lithium ion battery, wattage, amperes, and auxiliary batteries are a part of these students’ everyday vocabulary. Just another plus for this program.

Co-captains Trisilla Willis and Tasha Laird and the team of Kursten Watkins, Chris Watkins, Zach Renville, and Josh Farmer fulfilled the team’s goal and dream since the car was built in 2007 - to win the race. All the hard work, perseverance, and dedication were rewarded when the race results came in.

The Tushka Hashi III team drove the 853.5 mile race in a total of 24.5 hours with an average speed of 35 miles per hour. They were the only team in all divisions to complete all the miles and with the fastest time of any vehicle in the race, giving them the distinction of becoming the 2010 National High School Solar Car Champions. This honor brings with it the opportunity to participate in the World Solar Car Race, which takes place in Australia in 2011.

Not only did the team win the overall championship, they won the day trophy every day of the race for being the first car to reach the daily destination, the Hunt Award for Engineering Excellence, and an Appreciation Award for Excellent Team Spirit.

Co-captain Trisilla Willis was awarded The Order of the Solar Cell, presented to extremely special people who believe in high school solar car racing and the students who make it happen. These exceptional students represented the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians with pride and honor and deserved all the accolades received.

“This is awesome!” exclaimed Trisilla Willis, co-captain and driver, as she claimed the five-foot tall trophy for the team.

“What a great way to end my solar car career,” said Willis. She has been a team member for four years and this was her final race. Immediately upon returning to Choctaw, she was off to basic training for the Army National Guard.

Team members and mentors alike agreed that this was the most exciting race they have participated in. The community support shown and the surprise welcome home reception were highlights in an exhausting yet satisfying 14 day trip.

The team is now looking to the future, with trips to visit the Seminole Tribe in Florida to introduce those students to solar energy and robotics, another solar race in Houston, Texas in April, and who knows, maybe even a trip to the Australian outback in 2011!

Tutoring program helping Conehatta students

The Conehatta School day tutoring classes are working hard to master grade level competencies and objectives in language arts & mathematics. The tutorial program targets students who need extra help in reading, language arts & math. To meet the students’ needs, Mrs. Hardy & Mrs. Bennett work closely with the classroom teachers planning activities & using manipulative strategies to help each student meet their fullest potential.

CCMS had a great turnout for Open House.

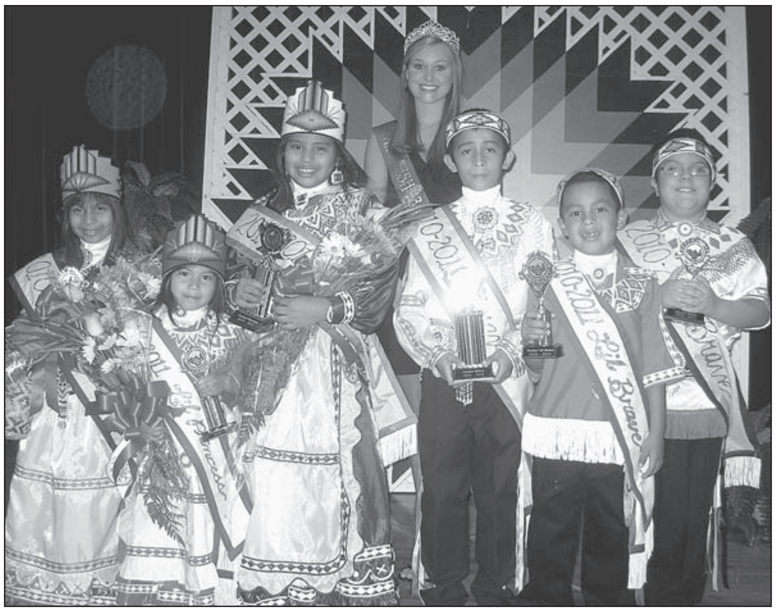
Choctaw Central Middle School news

The staff at Choctaw Central Middle School would like to thank everyone who attended Open House 2010 & helped make it a successful night. The afternoon began with the parents meeting & visiting with the staff. Next, everyone moved to the cafeteria for a delicious meal & informative program. The night ended with a drawing for cash prizes. **RIGHT**, Winners were, from left, Glenda Leach, $50; Barry Ben, $75; & Victoria Billie, $100. Again, thanks to everyone that made our night successful!

Conehatta kindergarten class enjoys activities

Ms. Williams's & Ms. Ammie's kindergarten class at Conehatta Elementary School had wonderful cultural experiences during American Indian Week. They watched cultural videos of Conehatta students dancing traditional Choctaw dances. They sang Choctaw songs & danced. They colored pictures of Choctaw clothing & made drums in Conehatta colors. They also made totem poles & drew traditional Choctaw art on them. The students enjoyed the week's activities.

PICTURED RIGHT
TUCKER ELEMENTARY PRINCESSES & BRAVES
Pictured from left are Div. II Princess Makaylin Alex, Little Princess Naliyah Jim, Div. III Princess Kaedre Denson, pageant emcee Miss Neshoba County Paige Richardson, Div. III Brave Tiger Briscoe, Little Brave Coby Willis, & Div. II Brave Xative Nickey.



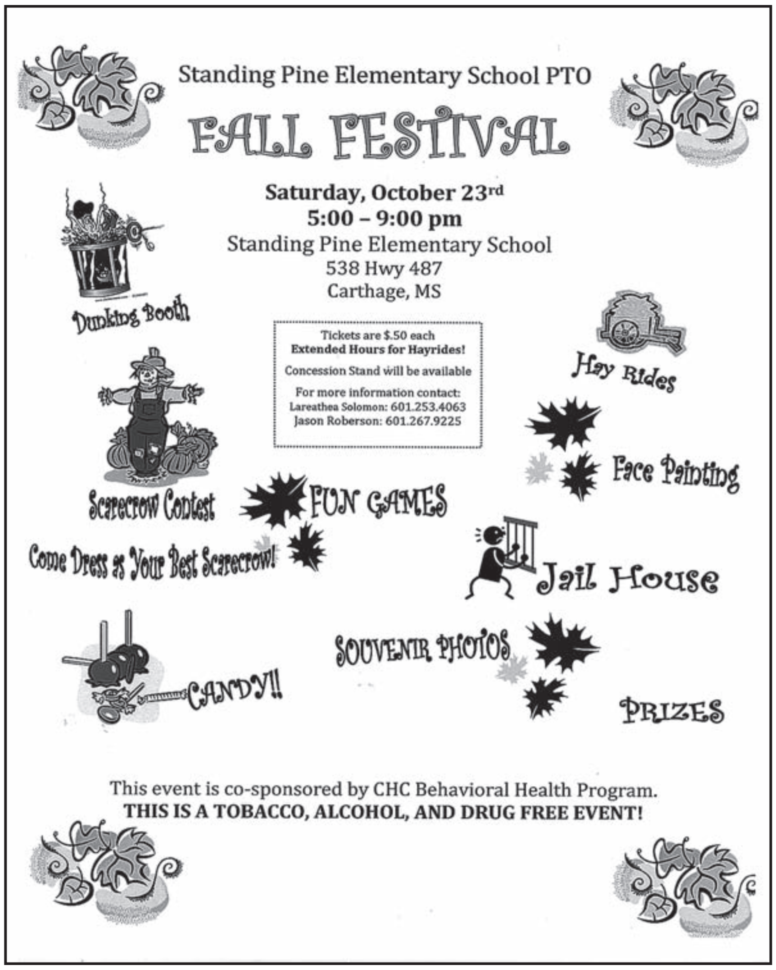
Tucker School celebrates American Indian Week

The opening festivities for the week were on Monday (Sept. 20) with a display of students' arts and crafts and essays the students wrote about their Native Pride. On Wednesday (Sept. 22), all students enjoyed a field trip to Pearl River for a Cultural Arts Festival. There they saw artisans making stickball sticks, beadwork and traditional clothing as well as the entire process of making swamp cane baskets. Guest speakers including Dr. Kennith York, Norma Hickman, Dr. Tammy Greer, and Tom Mould enlightened the students with more history. Students were also able to participate in many crafts.

The Brave and Princess Pageant was held Thursday morning (Sept. 23). Emcee for the pageant was Miss Neshoba County Paige Richardson. The judges were June Palmeiri, Leticia Rengal, and Barrett Smith. Providing special entertainment were Jalena Farve, Autumn McMillan, and Melody Charlie singing and signing "Go My Son." Over 35 students competed for the honor of being Tucker Brave and Princess.

The winners for 2010-2011 were as follows: Little Brave, Coby Willis; Little Princess, Naliyah Jim; Division II

.........see TUCKER, pg. 16



Standing Pine Elementary School PTO

FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 23rd
5:00 – 9:00 pm
Standing Pine Elementary School
538 Hwy 487
Carthage, MS

Tickets are $.50 each
Extended Hours for Hayrides!
Concession Stand will be available
For more information contact:
Lareathea Solomon: 601.253.4063
Jason Roberson: 601.267.9225

Dunking Booth
Hay Rides
Face Painting
Scarecrow Contest
FUN GAMES
Come Dress as Your Best Scarecrow!
Jail House
SOUVENIR PHOTOS
CANDY!!
PRIZES

This event is co-sponsored by CHC Behavioral Health Program.
THIS IS A TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND DRUG FREE EVENT!

Mingo attends summer NYLF/MED program

Shelby Mingo

Shelby Mingo, a 17 year-old senior at Choctaw Central High School, participated in a 10-day summer educational program that introduced outstanding high school students to the world of medicine.

The National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED) familiarized students in grades 9-12 with professionals from some of the nation's top medical centers and faculty from renowned institutions of learning.

With close cooperation from many prestigious and technologically-advanced hospitals, research facilities and medical schools, the Forum challenges students to learn about a broad range of topics, including educational requirements, career options, clinical practice and complex ethical and legal issues facing the medical profession today.

Students also got firsthand accounts of what life is like as a resident, discussed global epidemics, cures for life-threatening diseases, medical specialties and primary care with current physicians and patients.

In a letter from Shashin Doshi, M.D., Senior Councilor to NYLF/MED, he stated, "Shelby meets the high standards we set to qualify as a nominee... Her nomination to represent her school and community as a forum scholar places her among a very select group of the nation's top students. Fewer than one percent of all high-achieving high school students are presented with this opportunity, and many alumni of the program report that it is a life-changing experience."

NYLF/MED admits approximately 350-400 students per session. Scholars are nominated by their teachers or mentors, alumni of this or other NYLF programs, or are nominated based on information provided on voluntary pre-college surveys, such as the National Research Center for College and University Admissions My College Options Survey.

"My future career choice is being an art or music therapist. My choice reflects my interest interest in the arts. I absolutely love music. Any type of music always fills me with emotions that I can't really feel in every day life. As for art, I am a freelance writer, painter and a graphic artist. I've displayed two of my paintings at school," stated Mingo.

She also believes that instead of talking or taking medication to cope with mental illness, artistic expression is a better method to get closer to a person.

"My interest in therapy sprouted from my interest in psychology. I've always been interested in the mind and how it works. Any research I have done have always been involved with psychology. When I learned that psychology and my artistic talents can be united to make an actual occupation, I was set on making that my career," added Mingo.

All scholars who attended have demonstrated academic achievement. The Forum on Medicine sets the strictest standards for nomination and enrollment, as only the nation's highest-achieving students qualify for selection. This standard ensures an unparalleled experience for Forum on Medicine scholars who develop relationships with peers that benefit them for life.

At Choctaw Central, Mingo was selected Who's Who Among American High School Students for the past two years and a member of Upward Bound. She was also nominated for the People to People Student Ambassador Program. During her sophomore year, she was named Miss Sweetheart and received awards for Humanities II, Creative Writing II and Visual Arts.

Being in Biology II, Mingo says she will enroll in higher science and math classes and plans to attend community college then to a university. She is undecided of her college choices at the moment.

Shelby is the daughter of Paige Mingo of the Pearl River Community in Choctaw. She also has a younger sister, Isley.

TUCKER .... continued from page fifteen

Brave, Xative Nickey; Division II Princess, Makaylin Alex; Division III Brave, Tiger Briscoe; and Division III Princess, Kaedre Denson.

The Tucker Cafeteria Staff provided a delicious traditional meal of fry bread, chicken, hominy, green beans, and banana pudding. Volunteers helping to cook were Peggy Joe, Sally Willis, and Raphael McMillan. Helping to make the crowns and sashes were Pat Willis, Sally Willis, Lewana Otter, and Vickie Steve. Assisting the committee with decorating for the pageant was Mary Agent. Also donating to a successful week was Tucker Council Dorothy Wilson who insured that all participants received a special gift of candy and drink. Many parents, grandparents, and guests enjoyed this morning with the children.

Brooke Sibley, Tucker Principal, said, "A very special thanks goes to all of the Tucker faculty staff, parents, and community volunteers as their support and extra efforts insured that the students had a memorable American Indian Week. I especially want to express my appreciation to the hard working American Indian Week committee including Melanie Benn, Diann Cleveland, Julia Cole, Edna Cotton, Velma Henry, Lewana Otter, Teresa Savell, Vickie Singletary, Latisha Stephens, Vickie Steve, Ari Wallace, Sally Willis, Glenda Winstead, and Dorian Trahan."

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS NEWS & NOTES

CONEHATTA UNIT

Jayna Thomas

Thank you Community Planning Coalition for collaborating with us and hosting a Back to School Luau at the Conehatta Community swimming pool. The event was attended by all ages and included a prevention presentation. Activities included swimming, watermelon eating contest & a limbo contest. Jayna Thomas was the winner of the limbo contest. Way to go Jayna!

Congratulations to our members who earned fourth nine-weeks honor roll for the 2009-2010 school year! For their efforts, they were taken to watch the movie "Nannie Mcphee Returns" at Canal Place Cinemas on Sunday, Aug. 22.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 1 - Teen Night at CCHS Homecoming Game.

Oct. 8 - Teen Night at the club.

Oct. 9 - TRAILS - 14th Annual Diabetes Awareness Walk/Run in Choctaw.

Oct. 22 - Teen Night.

Halito & Happy Thanksgiving from the

..........continued next page

Conehatta Boys & Girls Club members & staff. Also, to all our veterans retired & currently serving, “THANK YOU” for all you do!

Teen Center

Thank you, Marquita, for the informative video, “10 Ways to Turn A Negative Outlook Into A Positive One,” to present for teen night on Sept. 17.

All teens (13-18 year olds) come join us for Teen Night. You will learn something new and have fun with your friends.

Teen Night in November will be Nov. 12. During this event, we will be doing beadwork as a Choctaw culture activity.

TORCH & Keystone Club news

Members of the TORCH Club assisted Elise in the American Indian Day Pageant on Sept. 22. TORCH members helped complete the crowns, sashes, set up, & cleaned up for the activity. GREAT JOB! We appreciate all of you.

TORCH & Keystone members participated & supported CCPC’s National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Road to Recovery Celebration in Choctaw on Sept. 30, 2010.

In November, TORCH club members will be running a mock election for their president & vice-president seats in the club. All members will be able to cast their votes.

American Indian Day Brave & Princess Pageant

Thank you to the parents, guardians and family members who came to our annual pageant. We appreciate all members who participated in the pageant. Everyone looked beautiful! Congratulations to the winners in each division.

Princesses were Hannah Lewis, Larena McMillan and Sharyl Thomas. Braves were Sylius Thomas, Gaston Pennington and Braylon McMillan.

Elise York, group leader, participated with the teachers & assistant teachers at the Conehatta Elementary School’s American Indian Day pageant entertainment. The group was dress in their native attire and signed to “Go My Son”. The kids applauded & cheered for the group as they did an excellent job. Way to go Elise!

Princesses were Hannah Lewis, Larena McMillan & Sharyl Thomas. Braves were Sylius Thomas, Gaston Pennington & Braylon McMillan.

Conehatta Elementary School teachers and assistant teachers providing entertainment included, seated from left, Andrea Willis, Kristy Gibson, Willa Thomas, Elise York; standing, Fannie Williamson, Darlene Vaughn, Elijah Ben, Peggy Patrick, Gwen Grant, Amy Holden, & Glenda Williamson.

Choctaw Central Homecoming Parade

Torch & Teen members attended and supported the Choctaw Central Warriors at the homecoming game against Heidelberg. B&G staff & members also participated in the annual homecoming parade to show our support.

Thank you to the following people for their contribution in our participation in the CCHS homecoming parade: Ron Anderson for coloring our “Smurfs” blue TORCH members, Deshaya Jefferson, Hannah Lewis, Laraya McMillan, & Brett Thomas; artists for the banner, Madison Dixon (Torch member), Elise York, Lesley Morris, Marina Smith, Demetra Stephens, Chrissy Chapman, & Ron Anderson; “Smurfs” & parents, Tatterian Anderson - Ron & Deanna Anderson; Braylon Smith - Allison & John Smith; Kylie Williamson - Marie Wilson & Jr. Williamson; Braylon McMillan - Bjion McMillan & Latilda Jim; Papa Smurf - Lesley Morris; and other members marching with the club, Kyannah Grant, Kyarrah Grant, Taelyn Nickey, & Shamaiya Anderson.

Members participate in the homecoming parade.

Each month we will spotlight a specific program that we run in our club so that parents get some kind of understanding about what their kids learn when they are members of the club.

Program spotlight

T.R.A.I.L.S (Together Raising Awareness for Indian Life) is a diabetes prevention program for members between the ages of 8-10 years old. Members participating in the program learn about the importance of eating healthy meals and staying active.

T.R.A.I.L.S. is the first diabetes prevention program developed for Native American Boys & Girls club members. Members take pre-test at the initial meeting and then at the completion of the program the take a post-test.

The T.R.A.I.L.S. program teaches the members about

..see CLUB NEWS, pg. 18

TORCH Club members attended the 2010 National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Celebration sponsored by the Choctaw Community Planning Coalition. Members participated in the recovery walk, Choctaw social dance & the candlelight vigil. Pictured, seated from left, are Brett, Mya, Hannah, Merecedes, Brittney; standing, Deshaya, Javison, Derald, Lavaniel, Shawn, & Marina (staff).

CLUB NEWS

continued from page seventeen

the food pyramid, healthy and unhealthy snacks, label reading, & portion control. The program also has some fun games and puzzles for the members to enjoy while learning.

An optional activity included for the T.R.A.I.L.S. program is the six minute walk challenge. It is offered on three occasions 6 to 8 weeks apart. The six minute walk challenge is not a pass/fail test, it is just to measure how far one can walk in six minutes. Members walk the walking trail next to the building, each round is 1/4 of a mile.

PEARL RIVER UNIT

We have begun our fall programming and have had a great month for September! The staff are doing a great job planning and implementing activities. Some of the programs being implemented for the fall include: Power Hour (homework help), TNT Drama, Act Smart, Smart Girls, and Passport to Manhood. I have named only five of the 16 programs being implemented within our club. For more information on the programs we provide, feel free to talk with our staff.

On Sept. 8, a guest speaker from Community Health came and spoke with our Act Smart members. This included age groups 5-6. Thank you Sharon for coming to our club!

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AME

Pearl River Brave & Princesses (names unavailable).

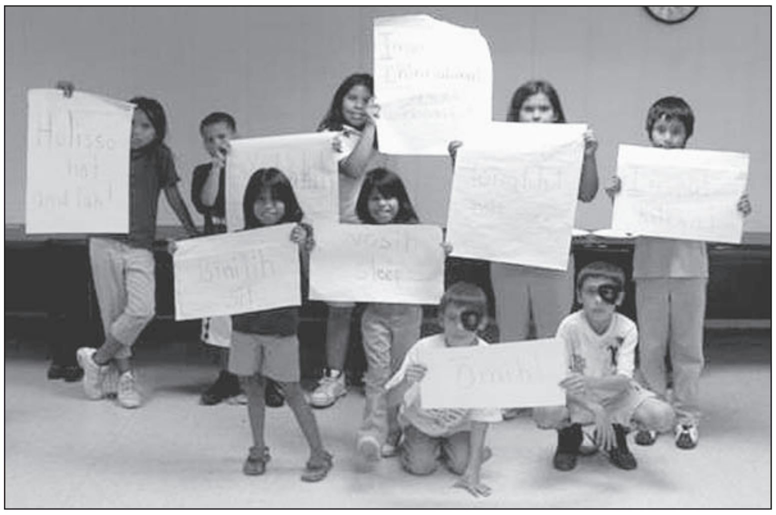
On Sept. 24, we held our American Indian Day Pageant. It was a great success, as the staff and Torch Club members came together and decorated the background. Sixteen members participated as to who would be crowned. The participants dressed in traditional attire and represented themselves with the pride of being CHOCTAW! Thank you, participants, on your hard work to participate in this year's pageant. Also, a big THANK YOU to the judges and parents who helped make this event possible.

On Sept. 30, TNT Drama presented a viewing of *"Ofi Showi Hohchifo"* to fellow members. Those members who were in the play were also able to invite their parents. An invitation will be given to all once the date is set for a theater-like performance. TNT Drama is being implemented for nine year old members. The members are enjoying learning new words in Choctaw.

We have upcoming plans and events for the month of October. This includes swift members participating in a run in Jackson, and TNT Drama attending a play in Meridian, just to name a few. Look for the November issue to see what exciting things happened at Boys & Girls Club, Pearl River Unit.

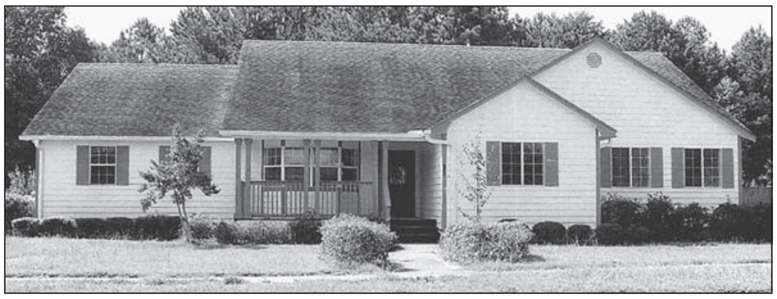
The Pearl River Unit is still taking applications for enrollment. Call 601-650-7382 for more information.

Submitted by Kim Ferris

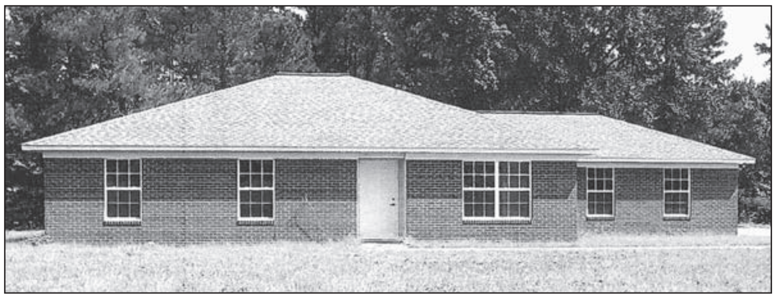


Members of the TNT Drama group.

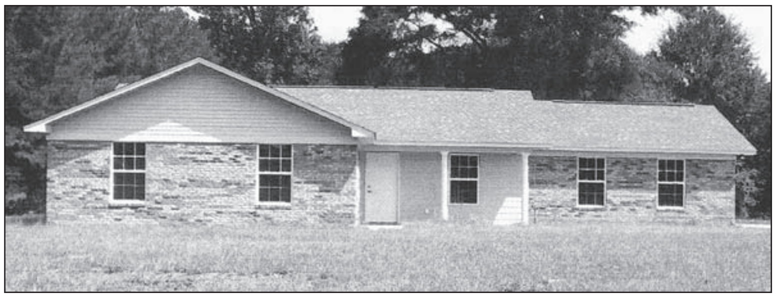
HOUSES FOR SALE



Three bedrooms, two baths with a garage. Located in the River Oaks Subdivision (Lot #2) in Pearl River Community. Asking price is $115,000.



Three bedrooms, two bathrooms with a garage. Located in the Tuska Subdivision (Lot #8) in the Conehatta Community.



Three bedrooms, two bathrooms with a garage. Located in the Tuska Subdivision (Lot #9) in the Conehatta Community. Interested tribal applicants are asked to come by the Choctaw Loan Program or call Patricia Baccus or Charlene Williams at 601-656-0056 for more information.

TRIBAL STANDARDS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR ALL MORTGAGE LOANS ARE:

1. Applicant must have at least (1) year of continuous employment.
2. If it's a joint application, applicants must be married as defined by State or Tribal Law.
3. Debt ratio for mortgage payment and insurance cannot exceed 30 percent of monthly income.
4. Total debt ratio cannot exceed 50 percent of monthly income.
5. Applicant cannot be delinquent in the payment of any Tribal loan unless delinquency is made current.
6. All Bankruptcy must have been discharged at least two (2) years.
7. Applicant is required to attend a Homebuyer Education class.

Mesteth honored by CANAR

Chris Mesteth, left, with CANAR Vice-President Lyle Cook (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Eagle Butte, S.D.).

Personal & professional achievement is best evaluated by others & not by oneself. Just ask Christopher Mesteth. He would be surprised if you saw his life as an example of personal & professional achievement. Others see things differently.

Mesteth was recently nominated by his supervisor of the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program to receive a Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) award. Mesteth serves as a counselor with the Tribal program.

His supervisor said Mesteth passes on his personal experiences with disability & beliefs regarding abilities & responsibilities to the individuals he serves.

“Being disabled is not the end of the road.” “Pick yourself up & get back to work.” “Don’t be scared. Try it! Be more independent.” These are Chris’ words to the people he serves while all the while standing in the background, offering support services & cheering others on to their own personal achievement.

Mesteth was awarded the Outstanding Staff Member Award for his dedication & commitment to improve the quality of life for Native American individuals with disabilities at the recent CANAR training conference in South Carolina.

When in greeting
you touch my hand,
What knuckled
shutters open?
What fear
do you unlearn?
Art and poetry by Laura Hershey, who has spinal muscular atrophy

Talent has no boundaries:
Workforce diversity includes people with disabilities
NDEAM2010
National Disability Employment Awareness Month
www.dol.gov/odep
U.S. Department of Labor
ODEP
Office of Disability Employment Policy

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Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program Horticulture Training Program news

Shown is Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program participant Dale Amos tending the fall crop that will be used by the Resort.

The Horticulture Training Component trains Tribal Members who have substantial physical or mental barriers towards employment in a way that prepares them to enter or reenter the competitive work force. Real-world work habits, work adjustment, and employer expectations are taught to individuals while at the same time support is provided by the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program Staff.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program is jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Education and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. In fiscal year 2010 alone, 216 individuals with disabilities have been served with 65 entering the competitive workforce thus far.

If you have interest in the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program, contact Billy Smith at 601-650-7343 for an application.

Disability Awareness Week activities scheduled

Submitted by Mona Stribling,
Choctaw Vocational
Rehabilitation Services Program

October 11-15, 2010, has been declared as Disability Awareness Week by Mi̱ko Beasley Denson.

During this week, activities have been scheduled by the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and Office for Independent Living Services staff in an effort to promote greater community awareness of disability issues.

The theme for this year is, *“Talent Has No Boundaries: Workforce Diversity INCLUDES Workers With Disabilities.”*

Disability Awareness Week is designed to provide multiple opportunities for increasing awareness of disability issues that many people must confront daily.

An Employer of the Year recognition ceremony, recognizing an employer who has made strides to hire qualified individuals who experience disability; and an Employee of the Year will be celebrated, recognizing an individual who experiences disability who has met their personal goals, therefore paving the way for other individuals with disabilities, showcasing the fact that individuals with disabilities possess varied skills and abilities just like their non-disabled co-workers.

The public is invited to attend an informational

..........continued next page

VETERAN'S DAY POW-WOW
NOVEMBER 11-13, 2010
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

Pearl River Softball Field, Choctaw Reservation
(1 mile West, Hwy. 16 past Silver Star/Golden Moon Casinos)

Host Southern and Gourd Drum:
SHOTI IKBI
Memphis, TN

Head Man Dancer
Picked per session
Head Lady Dancer
Picked per session
Head Gourd Dancer
Dan Isaac
MC
Harold "Doc" Comby
Arena Director
Randy Solomon

SCHEDULE

Thursday, *November 11*
8 a.m. Gates Open
All Choctaw Day
5 p.m. Teen Social Dance Competition
6 p.m.-10 p.m. Choctaw Social Dancing

Friday, *November 12*
8 a.m. Gates Open
5:30 p.m. Gourd Dancing
7 p.m. Grand Entry
(point system begins)
10 p.m. CLOSE

Saturday, *November 13*
8 a.m. Gates Open
12 p.m. Gourd Dancing
1 p.m. Grand Entry
4:30 p.m. Supper Break
5:30 p.m. Gourd Dancing
7 p.m. Grand Entry
10 p.m. CLOSE

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Dancer Registration
Friday 6 p.m. - Saturdy 1 p.m.

Divisions:	1st	2nd	3rd
Golden & Adult	$400	$300	$200
Teens (13-17)	$150	$75	$50
Youth (7-12)	$75	$50	$40
Tiny Tots	Day Money		

Categories (No combinations)
MALE - Traditional, Fancy, Straight, Grass
FEMALE - Traditional Cloth, Buckskin, Fancy, Jingle

Area Motels

Days Inn	601-650-3590
Holiday Inn	601-656-3553
Deluxe Inn	601-656-0052
Western Motel	601-656-1223
Save Inn	601-656-1221
Silver Star/ Golden Moon	800-557-0711

RV Parking:
Frog Level 601-650-9621
-2 mi from casino on Hwy 16

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, its funding agencies or the Veteran's Day Pow-Wow Committee is not responsible for any injuries, thefts, or travel expenses that may arise from this event. The Veteran's Day Pow-Wow is a DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE event!

Native Hoop
www.nativehoop.ning.com
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Discussions, Blogs,
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For more information on pricing or appointments, send questions to vince.nickey@yahoo.com

speech leading to improved disability awareness on Thursday, October 14, from 10 a.m.-12 noon in the Manpower Training Center in the Pearl River Community (Room 9).

A visual screening will be held that same day in the same location beginning at 1 p.m. and completing at 3 p.m. Screening will be done for visual acuity and glaucoma.

Appreciation activities for the current Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and Office for Independent Living participants are scheduled, with activities to include a cook-out, cake walk, and bingo.

Funding for this activity is from the Choctaw Community Fund, a long-standing supporter of disability awareness. For more information, call at 601-650-7332.

CHOCTAW WILDLIFE & PARKS DEPARTMENT HUNTING & FISHING SEASON 2010-2011

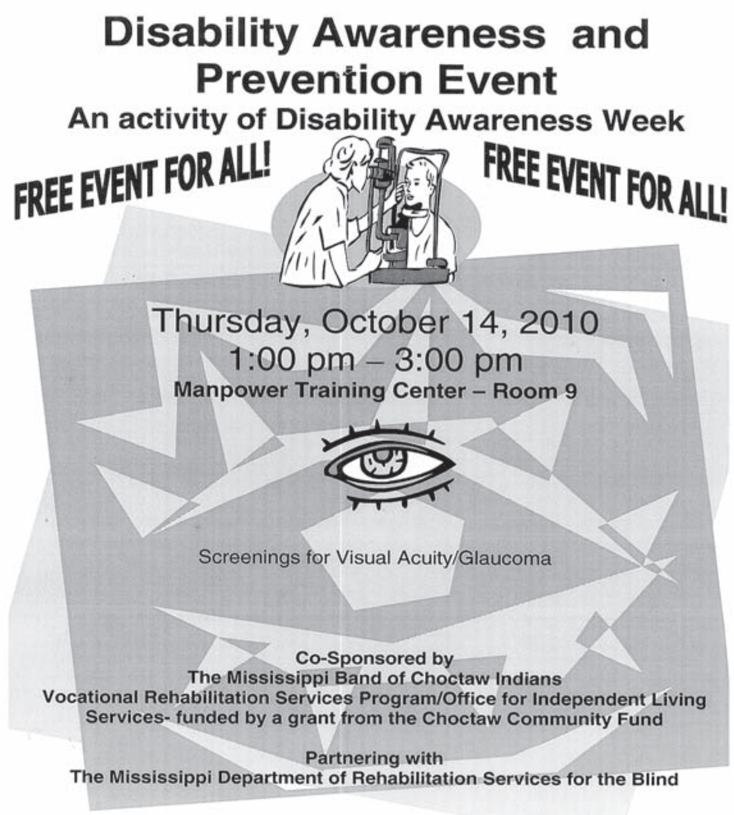
ARTICLE I: HUNTING, SEASON, LIMIT

HUNTING	SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(A) Bobwhite Quail	11/25/10 - 03/05/11	8/day; 16 poss.
(B) Turkey, either sex *(Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)*	10/15/10 - 11/15/10	1/day; 3/fall season
Turkey, Gobblers only *(Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)*	03/12/11 - 05/01/11	1/day; 2/spring season
(C) Squirrel	10/16/10 - 02/28/11	8/day; 16 poss.
(D) Deer - either sex		

ALL BUCKS MUST BE 6 POINTS OR HIGHER DURING THE 2010-2011 SEASON.
Exception: Youth less than fifteen (15) years old may harvest one (1) buck with any hardened antler, regardless of number of points, inside spread, or beam length.
Bucks: Three (3) per season, one (1) per day.
Does: Eight (8) per season, one (1) per day; with an additional two (2) allowed with archery.

HUNTING	SEASON	BAG LIMIT
Archery/Cross Bow Only	10/01/10 - 10/31/10	
Gun (without dog)	11/01/10 - 11/19/10	
Gun (with dog)	11/20/10 - 11/30/10	
Gun (without dog)	12/01/10 - 12/23/10	
Gun (with dog)	12/24/10 - 01/23/11	
Archery/Primitive Weapon	01/24/11 - 02/13/11	
(E) Rabbit	10/16/10 - 02/28/11	8/day;16 poss.
Cultural Rabbitstick with dogs	10/03/10 - 03/07/11	8/day;16 poss.
(F) Fox, Crow, Blackbirds	No Closed Season	No Limit
(G) Wild Hog	No Closed Season (No guns in October, Archery Only)	No Limit
(H) Opossum, Raccoon, Bobcat	10/01/10 - 02/28/11	No Limit
Raccoon Only	07/01/10 - 09/30/10	1/nightly; 2 poss.
(I) Frogs	04/01/10 - 9/30/10	25/nightly; 50 poss.
(J) Trapping	11/01/10 - 02/28/11	No Limit
1.2 DOVES	Follow Federal Regulations	
1.3 MIGRATORY BIRDS	Follow Federal Regulations	
1.4 FISHING	No Close Season	

THE FOLLOWING LIMIT AND LENGTH WILL APPLY TO FISHING IN PONDS.



Disability Awareness and Prevention Event
An activity of Disability Awareness Week

FREE EVENT FOR ALL! FREE EVENT FOR ALL!

Thursday, October 14, 2010
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Manpower Training Center – Room 9

Screenings for Visual Acuity/Glaucoma

Co-Sponsored by
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program/Office for Independent Living Services- funded by a grant from the Choctaw Community Fund

Partnering with
The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

Wilson places first at 4-H Project Achievement Day

On Aug. 31, 2010, a pizza party was held at Pizza Hut in Philadelphia to recognize Samantha Wilson for placing first in the Visual Presentation Category at the 4-H Southeast District Project Achievement Day.

The competition was held June 8, 2010, at the Whitehead Technology Center in Ellisville, Miss. Samantha's presentation was "Why I want to be a Choctaw Princess". Samantha did her research by utilizing some of the former princesses & received information from pageant committee members.

Samantha's presentation was decorative & very informative. What stood out the most was that she did an outstanding performance with confident & responding to questions without hesitation. The visual presentation is part of the 4-H curriculum to teach 4-H'ers to build character & self esteem.

During the pizza party, Samantha was presented a first place ribbon & $15 check from the Mississippi State University Extension Office for her visual presentation. Also, in appreciation for Samantha's participation in the contest, the 4-H staff presented her a "Certificate of Participation" & a 4-H backpack.

Samantha is a member of the Red Water 4-H Club. Her parents are Wanda & Tony Wilson of Red Water Community.

We thank the Choctaw Community Fund, former princesses, princess committees, & others that made this experience for Samantha a memorable one.

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HOURS
Mon-Fri 10 am-7 pm Sat 12 pm-6 pm

News from the MSU Extension Service

By Susan Cosgrove, Family Resource Management Area Extension Agent.
Submitted by Jim McAdory, Area Extension Agent for MBCI

NEW RULES FOR GIFT CARDS

Many of us like to give or receive store gift cards or gift cards with a MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or Discover brand logo. Cards such as these purchased after Aug. 22, 2010, will be governed by new rules.

The new rules for gift cards limit expiration dates. The money on the card will be good for at least five years from the date the gift card is purchased. Any money added later must also be good for five years.

Another part of the rule says that fees must be clearly disclosed on the card or its packaging. For example, a brand name gift card may cost $5 in addition to the face value of the card.

There may be other fees, as well, such as not using the card for at least a year, fees for using the card, fees for adding money to the card, or fees for replacing a lost card. Only one fee per month may be charged, however.

This rule does not apply to pre-paid cards, such as reloadable cards used like a checking account or for student away at college or other purposes. The rule does not apply to cards that are given as a reward or part of a promotion either. Reward cards may also have shorter expiration dates. For example, a $50 rebate card for purchasing a new phone may be good for only one year. You should still be clearly informed of expiration dates or fees.

For more information on new credit card, debit card, or gift card rules, contact Susan Cosgrove, Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Service Family Resource Management Area Extension Agent, at 601-635-7011 or susanc@ext.msstate.edu.

NEW CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY HAS BROAD POWERS

The new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will oversee an array of financial products & services.

The U.S.'s sweeping federal financial reform legislation created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to oversee financial products & services, including credit cards, mortgages, payday loans, private student loans, credit bureaus & debt collection.

This is the first time that one federal agency will be responsible for financial consumer protection. The bureau will be an independent entity housed in the Federal Reserve with its own budget & director & authority to take action to prevent or correct financial abuses. It will include several new offices & units, including the offices of Financial Education, Fair Lending & Equal Opportunity, Financial Protection for Older Americans & Service Member Affairs; Private Student Loan Ombudsman; & community affairs & research units.

The bureau's responsibilities include:

- Writing rules for financial products & services;
- Enforcing rules on the largest banks & credit unions (those with $10 billion or more in assets);
- Writing rules requiring consumers be provided with complete & understandable information on the costs, benefits & risks of the financial products under the bureau's control;
- Creating consumer protection rules to prohibit specific practices that the bureau considers unfair, deceptive or abusive;
- Establishing a consumer complaint system with a toll-free phone number, website & complaint database. The bureau will collect, investigate & respond to complaints; set up procedures for a timely response to consumers; & monitor companies' efforts to resolve complaints;
- Enforcing consumer protection laws such as the Truth in Lending Act, Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, Home Ownership & Equity Protection Act & Home Mortgage Data Act;
- Overseeing car dealers who do their own financing (providing direct loans to vehicle buyers) & auto financing companies;
- Writing rules affecting mortgage down payments & disclosures; loan modifications; credit card rates & fees; bank overdraft programs; credit score usage; & eligibility for student loans, credit cards & prepaid cards;
- Imposing fines on companies & requiring them to repay wronged consumers;
- Rescinding consumer contracts;
- Filing lawsuits against

..........continued next page

companies that violate the bureau's rules;

•Adopting federal rules that mirror states' action when a majority of states enact consumer protection rules for a specific product or service.

For more information, please contact Susan Cosgrove, Family Resource Management Area Agent for the MSU Extension Service at 601-635-7011, or by email at susanc@ext.msstate.edu.

Source: www.extension.org

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Report illegal dump site locations & environmental concerns to:
The Office of Environmental Protection
ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE
601-663-7510
Please leave a detailed message including a description of items found, the location of the dump site and any additional comments as needed.

FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Is Celebrating their 9th Anniversary

Where: Faith Missionary Baptist Church
Just off Hwy. 16 on 149
When: November 12-14, 2010
Time: Friday & Saturday at 6:00 pm
Sunday at 10:00 am
Everyone is Invited to Attend!!

In Memory

MIRIAM C. MCMILLAN PHILLIPS

Funeral services for Miriam C. McMillan Phillips, 26, were held Saturday, August 21, 2010, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated,

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Phillips passed away Aug. 14 at the Cherokee Indian Hospital in Cherokee, N.C. She was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

She enjoyed playing with her kids, nieces & nephews, fishing with her boys, listening to Elvis Presley songs, watching Supernatural, dancing, and cuddling with her girls.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hayward McMillan Sr. & Sarah Sampson McMillan; grandmother, Lurline Chickaway; aunt, Earline Flores; & an uncle, Lawrence McMillan.

Survivors include daughters, Isley Phillips & Cera Phillips; sons, Cy McMillan, Bridgeo Phillips, Jr. & Noah Phillips; sisters, Adrienne Tubby & Jolena McMillan; brothers, Hayward McMillan Jr. & Teddy McMillan; & a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, two great-nephews, relatives, & friends.

INFANT JESUS ALBERTO CRUZ

Funeral services for Jesus Alberto Cruz, seven month old infant, were held Friday, August 27, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Infant Cruz passed away Aug. 22 in Glasgow, Ky.

He was preceded in death by his maternal great-grandmother, Lallie Hickman, maternal great-grandfather, Ellis Hickman, paternal great-grandmother, Juana Cruz Fuentes, & a brother, Roberto Gomez Hickman.

Survivors include parents, Shauntelydia Hickman & Felipe Cruz; sister, Fabiola Cruz; maternal grandmother, Darlene Tubby; maternal grandfather, Steve Wilson; paternal grandmother, Josefina Cruz Fuentes; & numerous uncles, aunts & relatives.

MARY CLEMONS BELL

Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Clemons Bell, 91, were held Saturday, August 28, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the I Sleep Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Bell passed away Aug. 25.

She was a homemaker & enjoyed sewing, quilting, beadwork, basket weaving, & gardening.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Mack Tom Bell; parents, sisters, brothers, & twin sons.

Survivors include three daughters, Janie Stewart, Bonnie Phelps & Lorena Sanders; a son, Lonnie Bell; & a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren & great-great-grandchildren.

EVA LYNN FRAZIER

Funeral services for Eva Lynn Frazier, 47, were held Friday, September 10, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. The Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Frazier passed away Sept. 7 at the Jeff Anderon Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was in housekeeping at the Pearl River Resort. She was a Baptist. She enjoyed spending time with her family & grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Linnie & Frazier Frazier; four sisters, Gloria McMillan, Norma Jean Frazier, Jill Robinson, & Maggie J. Stoliby; & two brothers, Eugene Frazier & Andy Frazier.

Survivors include a daughter, Melissa Gibson; two sons, Scott Gibson & Michael Gibson; three grandchildren; four sisters, Betty Waltman, Susan Frazier, Emma Frazier, & Valerie Frazier; three brothers, Odell Frazier Sr., David G. Frazier Sr. & Dan Frazier; an aunt, Winchy Bell; an uncle, Russell Vaughn; a special companion, Maurice McMillan Sr.; special children, Johanna, Jacob, Billy, Maurice Jr., Julia, & Julian McMillan; several nieces,

see OBITUARIES, pg. 24

OBITUARIES

continued from page twenty-three

nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

JOSEPH BILLY, JR.

Funeral services for Joseph Billy Jr., 49, were held Saturday, September 11, 2010, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. The Rev. Robert Paul Tubby Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Simon Isaac Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Billy passed away Sept. 8 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

A 1979 graduate of Choctaw Central High School, he was employed with Chahta Enterprise.

He loved pow wows, singing, entertaining friends, spending time with family, & being a Miami Dolphins fan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Billy Sr. & Lillie Mae Isaac Billy; a son, Keith Sam; daughters, Joann Sam & infant Billy; & a brother, Terry Billy.

Survivors include five children, Sarah Ann Billy, Joseph Travis Sam, Cassandra Gail Billy, Alex Amzie Billy, & Keithan Wade Billy; a grandchild; sisters, Sally Steve, Dessie Bownas, Nancy Farve, Mattie McMillan, Madie Garcia, & Oree Billie; a brother, Julius Billy Sr.; long time companion, Ida Mae Sam; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MELVIN WILLIS

Funeral services for Melvin Willis, 67, were held Sunday, September 12, 2010, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Willis passed away Sept. 9 at his residence.

In 1978, he was hired at the University of Tennessee Health & Service Center. He retired in April 2009 after over 30 years of service. He loved to fish & play musical instruments.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thompson Willis & Nettie Mingo Willis; a sister, Maudie Dixon; & a brother, Tommy Willis.

Survivors include his wife, Doris Ann Ben Willis; sisters, Vina Mae Thompson & Verdie Robinson; a brother, Bobby Joe Willis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CLIFTON "HUMP" LEWIS

Funeral services for Clifton "Hump" Lewis, 64, were held Tuesday, September 14, 2010, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. The Rev. Anthony Crosby officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Lewis passed away Sept. 11 at Hospice in His Hands in Madden.

He was a Baptist & grew up in the Standing Pine Community. He & his wife, Ruby Lewis, resided there for several years. In 1974, he was elected as a Choctaw Tribal Council representative & served a term. They later moved to the Bogue Chitto Community & he was elected again into the council for another term.

Mr. Lewis was active in various churches. He was also a mechanic.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Houston & Edna Sam Lewis; his wife, Ruby Lewis; sons, Clifton Lewis Jr. & Golden Lewis; brothers, Gilbert Lewis, Calvin Lewis, Winnard Lewis, Coleman Lewis & George Lewis; uncles, Prentiss Lewis & Bart Lewis; aunts; Maime Comby & Esther Mae Willis; & a grandson, Stephen Keith Mingo.

Survivors include a daughter, Loretta Frazier; two sons, Clifton Willis & Brainard "Blood" Lewis; three children whom he raised, Steven Lewis, Sebastian Lewis & Scott Emerson; five sisters, Lennie Mae Comby, Waudine Sockey, Merlene John, Lucille Chickaway, & Ella Mae Isaac; two brothers, Truman Lewis Sr. & Carroll Gartin Lewis; an aunt, Roseline Sockey; an uncle, Horace Lewis, Sr.; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; 10 step-grand children; two step great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, & a special granddaughter, Gracie Moon Bell.

DANIEL HALL

Funeral services for Daniel Hall, 44, were held Saturday, October 2, 2010, from the Pearl River Mennonite Church. Pastor Duane Reinhardt officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hall passed away Sept.

..........continued next page

"Living a Worry-free Life"

by Pastor Thomas Ben

Is it really possible to live a worry-free life, in our day and time? According to God's word He does not want us to worry about anything.

Matthew 6:34, Amplified Version

"So do not worry or be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries and anxieties of its own. Sufficient for each day is its own trouble."

I Peter 5:7, Amplified Version

"Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully."

Philippians 4:6, Amplified Version

"Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God."

Worrying keeps you from trusting God. You must understand that His provision, protection, healing, favor, etc. comes when you simply trust Him. When you trust Him with all of your heart He will give you directions for your life. (Read: Proverbs 3:5-6)

Realize that He is well aware of what you are going through and He knows exactly what needs to be done. Trust Him with all of your heart once and for all.

Pray this: Heavenly Father, I realize you do not want me to worry or have any anxieties about anything. So, I cast all my cares, anxieties, worries, and concerns once and for all on you because you care for me affectionately. Thank you for your peace, strength and help. I receive it and I trust you with my life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Spirit of Life Christian Center • 278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350 • Phone 601.389.5446
www.spiritoflifechoctaw.org

Come join us.....

Sunday
10:00 am

Wednesday
6:30 pm

Spirit of Life Christian Center

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Pastor Thomas Ben

601-389-5446
Visit us on the web at:
SPIRITOFLIFECHOCTAW.ORG

29 at the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed cooking, making people laugh, going out, playing softball, volleyball, basketball, & tennis with his family & friends. He was known by his nickname, “Blue”.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert Hall and Minnie Chapman; brothers, Randall Hall, Junior Ray Hall, Roger Lee Hall, and Carl Hall; and sisters, Minnie Jean Sam, Gloria Jean Hall and Mageline Hall.

Survivors include his sisters, Betty Hall, Norma Hall & Jane Hall Tubby; a half-brother, Edward Wesley; aunts, Lena Hall Jefferson, Virgie Solomon, Wilma Lewis, Lucy McLemore, & Waudine Brown; uncles, Brant Isaac & Calvin Isaac; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

NELSON WILLIS

Funeral services for Nelson Willis, 63, were held Monday, October 4, 2010, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Willis passed away Oct. 1 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was a devout Catholic. He was an auto mechanic & loved to hunt & fish.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Rena Farmer; father, Clemon Willis; wife, Ethel Willis; & a nephew, Billy McMillan.

Survivors include his two daughters, Linda Griffin & Sharon Parham; three sisters, Mary Alice Mingo, Betty McMillan & Willie Mae Ben; a brother, Owen Willis; six nephews, three nieces, numerous relatives & friends.

STEPHEN LUKE ALLEN

Funeral services for Stephen Luke Allen, 46, were held Tuesday, October 5, 2010, from the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Brother Gerald Willis Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of funeral arrangements.

Mr. Allen passed away Oct. 2 at Leake Memorial Hospital in Carthage.

Allen attended the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in Standing Pine & taught scripture lessons. He graduated from Choctaw Central High School in 1984.

He built model aircrafts and classic automobiles. He watched historical shows of the Civil War & World Wars I & II. He enjoyed archiving family trees for both his foster & biological families & reunited with several of his biological siblings.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Lou Wickson; foster father, Winfred Denson; brothers, Matthew Allen, Rodney Stone, Ronnie Williams; & a grandmother, Sarah Williams.

Survivors include his father, Luke Allen Sr.; foster mother, Selma Denson; sisters, Jeanie Cox, Margaret Cox, Melissa Smith, & Marion Denson; brothers, Michael Allen, Teddy Allen, Samuel Allen, Luke Allen Jr., Eric Denson, Jonathan Denson & Winfred Denson Jr.; & a host of relatives & friends.

IN MEMORY OF
VIRGINIA ROSALINA RAY
AUGUST 9, 1987 - AUGUST 21, 2010

PRAISE & GLORY

Standing in your presence is where I belong. My life was so weak, but now you’ve made me strong.

I had so many tears, so much anger inside. I had so much pain, I could not even hide.

Lord, I’m grateful.

I never knew about you, never knew who you were. Now I’m glad I found you and I’m sticking to your word.

You changed who I was and made me new. So here I am to say that I love you.

Lord I’m grateful.

Thank you my God for doing so much for me. Thank you my God.

Thank you my God, for making me complete. Thank you Father.

(Hallelujah)

The Family of Ruby McMillan Pinto would like to thank the following for the beautiful flowers & plants: James, Wilma, Dwight, LeAnn, Sean; the Clifton McMillan Family; Judy Isaac; Minnie Lou & Howard Keith Farmer; Danita, Renita & Arita McMillan; Margerite Ben & Family; David & Dessie Bownas & Family; Bonnie Martin, Debbie Lewis, Patricia Gibson & Families; the Administration of Mi̱ko Denson; Donald Lasiloo Sr. & Family; & Kaedre, Raiyleigh, Kailynn, & Bryceton.

Ruby McMillan Pinto

I Can Just Imagine...

March 29, 2010 6:00 p.m.	Angels start multiplying around 185 Cobblestone Road, Standing Pine, as My Ash goes into her final hours on earth. Ash’s Guardian Angel administers to her as the hours pass into the early morning of March 30.
March 30, 2010 5:59 a.m.	As God’s appointed time approaches, a multitude of Heavenly Angels gather and stand at attention, stairway-type toward Heaven, as my God prepares to receive my Ash.
6:00 a.m.	Giant Nail-Scarred Hands appear amid the morning light as the Angels Michael and Gabriel take their places on either side of God’s loving hands as my Ash is gently carried by her Guardian Angel, the one who never left her side for 19 years, into God’s tender, loving Hands to eternal happiness and peace. My Ash can now see, walk and talk, things she was never able to experience. ***Oh Death Where Is Thy Sting?***

In memory of my beloved granddaughter,
Ashleigh Celeste Chapala
December 4, 1990 - March 30, 2010

Celebrating the Life & Love of Mrs.
Caroline W. Morris
July 17, 1944 - July 16, 2010

A FULFILLING PROMISE

Within the Kingdom of Heaven, there is joy & beauty as God welcomes you home. Loved ones already there take you by the hand & walk with you on the streets of gold. Upon looking down, you see us trying to carry on, uplifting each other as best as we can. You ask of God to grant our prayers & ease the pain that we are going through. We see the sun shine amidst the skies & know that you are at home in peace with God. Though tears we shed & grieve in our hearts, we understand the will of God. Life on this earth is short & it is to get our souls ready for our journey to heaven. We know that your mansion was ready for you & that you had to go dwell there. The love you gave to us all will forever comfort us when we may be sad. Caroline, we all love you & miss you dearly, but we know God loves you the most.

With love & appreciation,
Your children, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, grandmother, nieces, nephews, cousins, & the Hope Indian Baptist Church Family

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 5th Birthday to Elias Todd Bell! With Love from Mom, Dad, Angelina, Jada, Adam, Benjamin, Grandma, & Craig.

Happy Belated Birthday to our cousins, Hannah (12) on Sept. 6, Bunny (17) on Sept. 9, & Jayson (18) on Sept. 23. To Albert Isaac, Happy 3rd Birthday on Oct. 16, from Tyah, Lola, Esh, & Big Will.

Happy 21st Birthday to my homie, Mr. Jamie Kyle Willis, on Sept. 16, from Chandler Kahron & “Butch.” Thanks for being there for us.

Happy Birthday to Miss Israyah Leiah-Kanae Willis, a.k.a. Rayahz, on Oct. 3. Wish you many more to come & have a good birthday, lil’princess. We love you, from Jen, Brandon, Kyzer, Katie, Grandma Ringo, & Moshi Kyle.

Happy Birthdays! to the following people in our lives - Martin Willis on Oct. 1, Elbert on Oct. 5, Memorie Dawn on Oct. 9, Iron Eyes Cody York, Jr. on Oct. 13, Brannon Jayce on Oct. 20, & Ian York on Oct. 29. From Justin, Steph & Henry C.

Happy Belated Birthdays to my children in Aug. & Sept. - Glent Andrick Dixon on Aug. 10, Glendria Dixon on Aug. 19, Dallanicka Dixon on Sept. 1, Dalladaysia on Sept. 3, Cheriyah Dixon on Sept. 8, Glen Dixon Jr. on Sept. 11, Dallaray Dixon on Sept. 20, & Jaylendria Dixon on Sept. 22. I love you all very much, from mommy Julie Ann Shoemake... Happy Belated Birthday to my cuz. I had the best time... Happy Belated Birthday to my brother, Galen “Cowboy” John, on Aug. 18. Love ya bro, from your sista Julie S.

Happy Birthday to Richardson L. Chickaway, a.k.a. “Boch”, on Oct. 12 & many more years to come. Love from Chris, Shonie & the kids.

Happy Belated Birthday to my very first lovable niece, Shonika Billy, on Aug. 19. You are growing up too fast Beh, but you will always be my baby girl. Love always from your favorite aunty Chris, Mamo Chickaway, your Mom & Dad, Moshi Monte, Sistaz & Brotherz. We all love you very much.

Happy Belated Birthday to Ronald Billy Jr., a.k.a. “Jr.”, on Sept. 20. You’re one crazy boy & sometimes annoy us, but we still love you alots, from Mamo Chickaway, Moshi Monte, Auntie Chris, Mom & Dad, sistas Nika, Yo, Shae, & your baby brother Montraz.

A birthday message for my very special dad, Mr. Leonard L. Ben, on Oct. 24. Happy Birthday Daddy. Thanks for always being there when I need you the most. I can always count on you, from your Bebe Chitto - Mina. “I love you.”

To Mr. Elbert Stevens, Jr. I hope you have the best birthday ever! I love you. “Always, forever, promise.” It’s been two years since we first met. I hope we have more years together. Love, Domina.

Happy Belated Birthdays to Mrs. Lonie & Mr. Junior Comby on Sept.27 & 29! Love you guys! - Mina & E... Happy Birthday to my Papo Willis on Oct. 1, Memorie Dawn on Oct. 9, Cody Jr. on Oct. 13, Ian Cylar on Oct. 29, Martin Willis Jr. (Boy) on Oct. 30, & to my big brother, Richard Ben, “Love you still, even tho you’re a dummie” on Oct. 11.

Happy Birthday to Chanda Lewis Billy, from Cory Hall Sr., Jeffery Billy & Franecisca Cotton Hall.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Zamion “Ziggy Man” Shoemake on Oct. 8, from your family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Alex on Sept. 20, Jr. on Sept. 17 & Logan Ben on Sept. 23! Love ya’ll, from Lang.

Happy Birthdays to my lil brothers, Lonzo on Oct. 21 & Lorenzo on Oct. 14. Love ya’ll, from Nana.

Happy Belated 4th Birthday on Aug. 17 to our special angel, Miss Harriet La’Nise Allen. Love you very much, from Mom & Dad... Happy Belated Birthday on Aug. 29 to Alyssa Zoraine John, love from Uncle Harrington, Jackie & your cuz Harriet... Happy Belated Birthday on Aug. 23 to Julie A. Denson. Don’t over do it, from your cuz Jackie & Harrington.

Happy Birthday to our boys. Happy 1st Birthday Keaton Dupree on Oct. 23, Happy 4th Birthday “Phat-Phat” Arman Jr. on Nov. 21 & Happy 2nd Birthday to Carmon Dontey on Dec. 10. Love 4-ever from Daddy “Arman Jefferson”, Mommy “Vera Jefferson”, Bigeye “Melody”, Bihead “Antone”, Auntie Bugeye “Lillie Shomake”, Uncle Jay “Bruce Lee” & Lil’Cuz “Daisaun”.

Happy, Happy Birthdays to Miss Denitra Dawn Wilson on Oct. 23 & to Mr. Charles Wilson Sr. on Oct. 31. Hope yall enjoy yall’s day & may God continue to bless you with many more years to come!

Happy Belated 4th Birthday to Nazlyn JoAnn Thomas on June 27. Also to Jacob Taylor Chapman who turned 11 on Aug. 6, with much love. LOVE, MOM!

Happy 2nd Birthday on Sept. 4, 2010, to my handsome lil boy, Mr. Zian Keene Wilson, with lots of love, hugs & kisses, from your Mommy. Love you “Be Be Osi”!... Happy Birthday to DeMarquis Deshay Wilson on Sept. 9, 2010, from your family who loves & cares for you sooo much!

Happy Belated 10th birthday to my Big Baby Elijah Antonio Dove Tubby on Aug. 18. With lots of love from your Mommy & Harris, a.k.a. “Sonny Boy”... Happy 9th Birthday to my shrimp Sherente Cain Dove Tubby on Oct. 31, with lots of love from Mom & Sonny Boy... Happy Halloween to my four handsome babies, Coby Shane Dove Tubby, Elijah Antonio Dove Tubby, Sherente Cain Dove Tubby, & Alexander O’Brian Shoemake. Love ya’ll boyz, from Mom.

Happy Birthday to Latonya “Bonez” Anderson on Oct. 10. Love always, Nay... Happy Belated Birthday to Pajae Cook on Sept. 2, from Nay & your cousin Nico.

Happy Belated 12th Birthday to Shinobi Farmer... Happy 11th Birthday to Shantae & Dantae Farmer, from your Mom & brothers, Brannon, Demahn & Dejon, also from Nina, Kaden & Hayli. Ya’ll have fun!

....see BIRTHDAYS, pg. 28

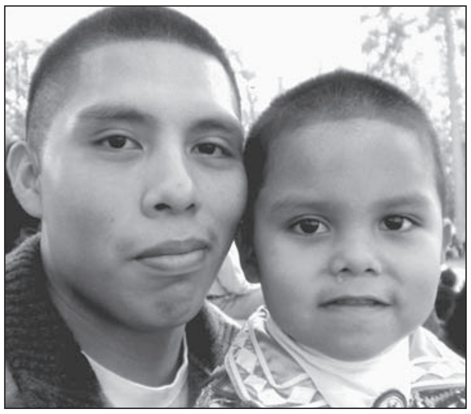
Air Natives win tournament

We congratulate the Air Natives basketball team for winning the Junior High Division of the July Jump Off Basketball Tournament held in Muskogee, Okla., on July 23-24. Team members include, kneeling from left, Jashaunique Steve, Daysianara Lewis, Janeisa Steve, Kandace Lasiloo; standing, Kerigan Wesley, Renaysia Polk, Anna Willis, Bree Lasiloo, & Descinda Hickman. Not pictured is coach Adrian Wesley.

Happy 29th Birthday to Michael Reed Joe on Oct. 14. With love always from Girl & the boys... Happy Birthday “Kocheese” on Oct. 14, from Corn-nuts, Tina & the babies.

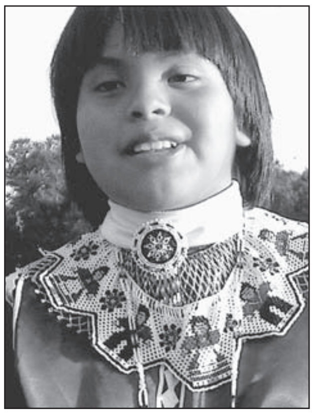
Happy Belated Anniversary to Charles Jr. & Diane Hickman in September, from Tyah, Lola, Esh, & Will.

We wish Lola a Happy 5th Birthday on Oct. 29 & to William II a Happy 2nd Birthday on Oct. 15, from Mom, Dad, Esh, Tyah, & the rest of the family.



Happy Birthday to Kelby on Oct. 5 & Keondrae on Oct. 14. From Kethan & Rae.

Happy Birthday to our son, Torondo Willis a.k.a. Toe (left), & Happy Belated Birthday to our daughter, "Be-Be Chito" Shanteria Willis. Yall are growing up too fast. With much love from Mom & Dad (Billy) & your brothers & sisters.

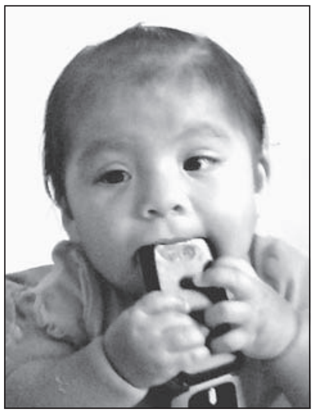


Happy Belated Birthday to Denzal Sky-Cody Stoliby, from Papo, Mom, Uncle, & the rest of the family.

Happy Belated Birthday to Marissa L. Hall, from Papo & the rest of the family.

KRABBY TURNS 10

Happy 10th Birthday to Sebastian Kyle Chickaway on Oct. 17. Love always from Sierra & Shayla.



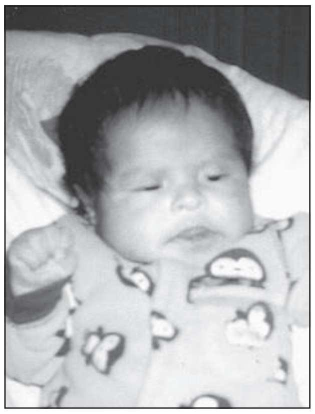
"RAYAHZ" turns 1

Happy Birthday to our beautiful Baby Gurl Miss Israyah Leiah-Kanae Willis on Oct. 3. May God be with you & bless you with many more years to come with so much love, from Mommy & Daddy.

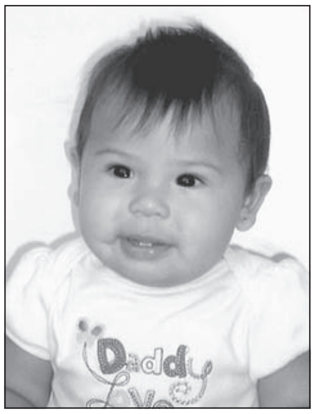
Happy Belated Birthday to Melinda Faye S. Lewis, from Papo, Mom, Uncle Bookie, & the rest of the family.

SIERRA TURNS 3

Happy 3rd Birthday to my angel, Miss Sierra Jenae Ferris, on Oct. 2. I love you beh. Love always from mommy.



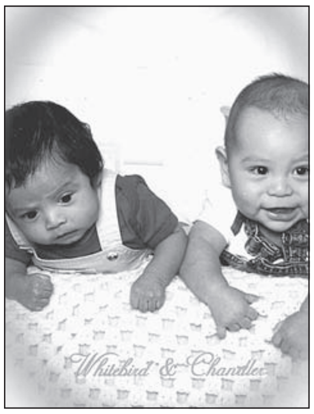
Happy 1st Birthday to Daynon Chaz Hickman on Oct. 27, with lots of love from Dad, Mom, your big sister Brittany, & your big brothers, Braylan & Gary.



Happy 1st Birthday to Tamiyah 'Ombah Ikbih' York on Oct. 20, 2010. It seems like yesterday you were born & now you're already turning one. We love you baby girl! From Daddy, G'ma York, Uncle Steven, & Bre.

Happy 18th Birthday to Miss Alyssa Paige Chickaway on Sept. 2. Love always from Sierra & Shayla.

Happy 13th Birthday to Brannon Jayce Farmer on Oct. 20. With love from Mom, Mike & your brothers, Demahn & Dejon. Also from Nina, Sly & the babies.



Happy Belated 1st Birthday to our lil' precious son, Chandler Kahron Billy, who turned a year old on Sept. 4. You have grown so fast. We love you, from Mommy, Daddy & the rest of the family.

Congratulations to Miss Audrey Nicole Chickaway for giving birth to a beautiful girl on Sept. 1. Her little angel, Kaydence Kylin Jim, weighed 6 lbs., 9 ozs. Cherish your lil' blessing Arg! From Bebe, Shayla & Britt.

To our beautiful princess, Memorie Dawn Willis. "Happy 7th Birthday!" on Oct. 9, from Alex, Mary Bell, Mom, & Dad.

Happy Belated Birthdays to my wonderful babies, Ms. Chanda Deann Lewis on Sept. 7 & to my son, Mr. Chandler Kahron Billy, on Sept. 4. I love you both from the bottom of my heart. Thank you both for being there with me. May God bless the both of you & let's hope for the best in the future. I love yall, from "Butch".

BIRTHDAYS .... continued from page twenty-six

To a very special nephew, Brett Hickman on Sept. 1. “Hope you had a great birthday. Although I haven’t been there for you on your birthdays, you’ve always been in my heart. So happy birthday to you,” from your auntie & cousins.

Happy Birthday to Martin Willis Jr. on Oct. 30. You are a nephew that truly shines bright as a star in the darkest of times. Knowing you’re my nephew makes me so proud, you would stand out in any crowd. You’re my dear nephew I truly love. SO A BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! Don’t over do it, from your aunt, cousins, Mina & Justin.

Happy Birthday to Mahalia Shane Gibson on Oct. 29, from Iverson, Jamearan, Imearia, Devion, Berd, & Tyler... Happy Birthday to my Dad (Tyler) on Nov. 1, from Iverson Jamear Wallace & Jamearan Monta Wallace.

Happy 16th Birthday to Yolanda La’Gayle Willis on Oct. 19, I hope you have a good birthday. Daddy loves you & be strong. God will be with you all the way. I know I could be with you but I can’t. I know it’s hard on me everyday. I know you are growing up & I’m glad. Someday we will have a good time together & I hope to see you again. Love from your #1 Daddy, Fieldon Wayne Jefferson. See ya.

Happy Belated Birthday to a Husband, Father & Grandfather Mr. Robert P. Tubby Sr.

We want to thank the Lord for blessing us with you. He uses you to spread The Word, and that is what you do. We want to praise the Lord, for the joy you bring to us. He led you here to help exalt, His precious Son Jesus. We want to celebrate the Lord, with you on your birthday, on Sept. 22. He knew what you meant to us, as we prayed for you to stay. We want to tell the Lord, how much you mean to us. But He already knows it all, and we’re sure you would agree. So now we thank the Lord, and praise His Holy Name. In celebration of your birth, knowing you will do the same.

We love you very much & hope to celebrate many more birthdays with you. With love, from your wife, Lana R. Tubby & your children, Angelina Martin & family, Tamika Tubby & family, Robert P. Tubby Jr. & family, Desiree Tubby & family, William E. Tubby & family, & Jacob Joe.

HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY TO OUR PRINCESS

Gracie Nevaeh Rayne Williams - Oct. 10, 2010

Without our precious little girl, there would be no sticky fingers, ‘tangled hair, toys scattered everywhere’. Fancy artwork on the wall drawn by midgets three feet tall. I want it NOW! Buy me gum. If you have it, I want some. Dirty faces, grass-stained knees, learning words like pretty please. Endless hugs & goofy wet kisses, learning respect with ‘Mr. & Mrs’. Scraped-up hands from falling down. Watching a movie again and again. When it’s over she’ll say one more time, please. Messy fingers, hair gone wild all in the life of a precious child!

We love you very much, from the WILLIAMS FAMILY, Daddy Jimmy, Auntie Moe, Ofo Jimmy Sr., Pokni & the rest of the family.

CHOCTAW
COMMUNITY
NEWS

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PICTURED ABOVE

Glad you are back “Bubba”, from your family.

PICTURED RIGHT

Happy Belated Grandparent’s Day Grandma Kirk!... Oops!! Grandma John! Love, Holly, Melody, Onna, & Hallie.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 11 CHOCTAW, MS 39350 NOVEMBER 2010

TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Tribe hosts Choctaw Expressions

Choctaw Indian Princess Mahlih Vaughn poses with several Choctaw youth after a traditional social dance performance at the Pearl River Amphitheater during Choctaw Expressions.

Hundreds were in attendance for a free 3-day cultural arts festival featuring traditional Choctaw arts and crafts and social dancing.

The Choctaw Museum hosted Choctaw Expressions on Sept. 22-24 in Choctaw.

Students from the surrounding Choctaw Tribal Schools and the general public had the opportunity to join in Choctaw social dancing, participate in hands-on children's crafts in the *Chahta Immi ihinoshi* (Choctaw Ways Path), and observe Choctaw artisans as they created stickball sticks, traditional clothing, beadwork and swamp cane baskets from beginning to end.

Guest speakers were in attendance to share the history, legends & stories of the Tribe. Speakers included Norma Hickman, Dr. Kennith York, Leigh Marshall, Dr. Tammy Greer, and Tom Mould.

A book signing by Mould was held in the Choctaw Museum after his presentation.

During Choctaw Expressions, visitors gained a better understanding and appreciation of the traditional and contemporary aspects of Mississippi Choctaw life. The exhibits in the Choctaw Museum highlight natural resources, games, dance, & government.

Anderson crowned 2010 CCHS Homecoming Queen

Choctaw Central High School senior Sahinna Anderson was crowned the 2010 Homecoming Queen during halftime of the Choctaw Central-Heidelberg football game October 1 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw. Pictured, front row from left, is flower girl Iyana Anderson & crown bearer Derrick Reynolds; back row, Sahinna Anderson & escort, brother Ricky Anderson Jr. The Warriors won the contest 32-14.

Children
Protest
Domestic Violence

Head Start children rally against domestic violence

CCHS senior Monte Farve dons a costume & poses with the children.

Children from the area Choctaw Head Start programs participated in the Healthy Families Fall Festival October 8, 2010, at the Pearl River Amphitheater in Choctaw. Representatives from various Tribal programs, public service officials and several students from Choctaw Central High School took part in providing fun-filled and informative activities for the children. Afterwards, all in attendance participated in a domestic violence prevention march from the amphitheater to the nearby Pearl River Recreation Field. The march was in observance of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At the field, all participants were given a purple balloon. The event culminated with all the children releasing the balloons into the clear, blue sky.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MIKO BEASLEY DENSON

The Transformation of the Golden Moon

Pearl River Resort is our Tribe's most important economic engine. Keeping it on track and profitable is the most important thing we can do to ensure our survival and self-determination.

My administration and the leadership at the Resort had already started streamlining operations when the economic crisis that began in September of 2008 hit us. We had a plan in place and took decisive action early. It included an outside audit of the entire enterprise, a work force reduction and a schedule change at the Golden Moon to reduce expenditures and bring our capacity in line with the market we serve. **We did these things without cutting a single Tribal member's job.** And, despite shrinking disposable income levels and fewer people visiting casinos, the increased efficiency allowed us to make large payments against the debt incurred to build the Golden Moon. The payments largely freed us from the control of the bankers and their loan covenants that prohibited the Resort from making adequate payouts to Tribal government.

On November 1st, the next phase of the turn around will begin. I made the decision to convert the Golden Moon casino floor into the Golden Moon Event Center. This will allow us to bring in bigger acts and larger concerts and shows to generate greater revenue than we could at the Silver Star Convention Center. We will be reconfiguring the Golden Moon and remodeling the gaming floor to create a more efficiently sized gaming area. The hotel and restaurants will remain open during this time. By New Year's Eve the transformation should be complete and the Golden Moon Event Center will open.

The Golden Moon Event Center will be largest casino event venue in the region. It will seat over 4,500, serve as a meeting and convention center and allow us to book bigger, more popular entertainment and draw more patrons to the Resort. The new facility will be first class.

It took a solid plan, decisive action and courage to get these things done and turn the Resort around. There was complaining from some and it will probably continue. There will always be those who will use the tough decisions that are in the long-term interest of the MBCI to advance themselves politically. But looking at the results, even the critics have to admit that our plan has paid off. The Resort's numbers continue to get better. Revenues and profits continue to increase and are exceeding those of this time last year. Pearl River Resort's market share has increased ten months in a row and is the envy of the gaming industry.

Although the nation's economy is not out of the woods yet, I can say without hesitation that the way we have navigated through these rough times has been a success.

This transformation of the Golden Moon, the turn around at Pearl River Resort in general and our new Bok Homa Casino represent hope for the future. They are triumphs over the haters and naysayers in Jackson, the Gulf Coast, Alabama and even on the Reservation who hoped and prayed we would fail and give up in our pursuit of true economic self-determination. What we were able to accomplish in the face of adversity is a source of tremendous pride for Chahta.

Bok Homa Casino under construction.

Bok Homa Job Fair

To continue paying distributions without borrowing money and funding services to Tribal members at the current levels, I have made new sources of revenue a priority for my Administration. We hunt for new revenue sources constantly and often it takes us far away from the Reservation. But, as you know, most recently it took us down Highway 59 to our community in Jones County. Construction of our Bok Homa Casino is moving ahead of schedule and, in addition to being a source of new revenue, the Bok Homa Casino will provide dozens of jobs.

In keeping with my pledge to put Chahta first, on Thursday, October 21st, over seventy Tribal members from

..........continued next page

NEMA 5
sawmill square

Hundreds attended the job fair in Laurel. Seventy-one (71) Tribal members were hired first.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE 601-663-7736 FAX 601-656-6696

Melford Farve .... Communications Officer
Brian C. Willis .... Communications Editor
Kathie Henry .... Communications Assistant
Stephanie Farmer .... Communications Assistant

Items of interest to the local & Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER 2010 ISSUE IS FRIDAY, NOV. 5, AT 12 NOON.

the Bogue Homa community applied and were offered jobs at our new Casino, contingent on their ability to obtain and maintain a gaming license issued by the Choctaw Gaming Commission.

Jobs included supervisory and non-supervisory positions in Hospitality, Cage Operations, Marketing, Security and Information Technology, to name a few. The Job Fair in Bogue Homa was open only to Tribal members and was held before the public job fair the next day in Laurel which over 1,000 people attended.

Senator Cochran Visits Choctaw

On October 18th, I had the privilege of hosting Mississippi's senior Senator, Thad Cochran. Senator Cochran has been a strong supporter of our Tribe for many years and we discussed the important projects that we are working on. With tight budgets here in Choctaw and in Washington, it is critical that our Congressional delegation, especially Senator Cochran in his capacity as a senior Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, see first-hand our urgent needs.

I was also pleased to meet and welcome Sarah Peters and Bennett Mize, legislative aides in Senator Cochran's Washington office, who accompanied him.

We started the visit with a briefing at Tribal headquarters. We covered important issues including education, health care, housing, and economic development. Josh Breedlove, CEO of Chahta Holding Group, briefed the Senator on our subsidiary companies and their multiple projects. We also discussed the need for Congress to enhance the 8a programs at the Small Business Administration that provide so many benefits to Choctaw and other Tribes across the country.

Following the briefing, I took the Senator and his staff to visit the Wellness Center and then to the Choctaw Health Center. While we have made tremendous strides toward improving the quality of the health care we provide to Tribal members on and off the Reservation, much more needs to be done. I wanted to make sure Senator Cochran is aware of these efforts. Mary Harrison led the CHC tour and we discussed needed improvements and solutions.

I was also proud to show the Senator the work that we are doing on the Choctaw Veterans Memorial. Finally, I showed the Senator the new housing units being built on Frog Level Road.

After the Senator left, his staff remained and joined Attorney General Don Kilgore for a tour of the Smith John Justice Center. Senator Cochran helped secure much needed federal appropriations in order to complete the Justice Center, and I wanted to make sure that he and his staff know that we have spent those funds wisely and efficiently in the effort to promote safety and law and order in Choctaw.

Senator Cochran exemplifies the kind of person and public servant we need more of in this country. We love him here in Choctaw and we look forward to his next visit.

Beasley Denson,
Tribal Mi̱ko

From left, Mi̱ko Beasley Denson, CHC Deputy Director Mary Harrison, Senator Cochran, CHC Acting Director Gary Ben, & Sen. Cochran's legislative aides Sarah Peters & Bennett Mize at CHC.

CHC Acting Director Gary Ben, Deputy Director Mary Harrison & Diabetic Coordinator Darlene Willis speak with the Senator.

Mi̱ko Denson describes the new housing construction at Frog Level.

Choctaw Tribal Council resolution summaries

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Tribal Council for consideration. The following is a brief summary & action taken. If you're interested in seeing the full text, visit the Offices of the Choctaw Tribal Council in Choctaw, or talk with your local representatives.

Regular Meeting
October 12, 2010

Resolution CHO 11-001, authorizing the Tribal Mi̱ko & Secretary-Treasurer to instruct the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Special Trustee (OST), to disburse funds & to provide investment instructions for the Tribe, was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 11-002, authorizing the Choctaw Housing Authority to submit an application for an Indian Community Development Block Grant for the development of a subdivision in Bogue Chitto Community, was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 11-003, accepting an award from the

see RESOLUTION, pg. 5

NEWS FROM THE Pearl River Resort®

Choctaw, MS

Stars align for new Golden Moon Event Center

Largest Casino Event Venue in Region Set To Open New Year's Day

CHOCTAW, Miss. (Oct. 29, 2010) - Pearl River Resort, the southeast's largest hotel and casino resort, announced that it will open the Golden Moon Event Center - a 75,000 square-foot facility attracting national headlining acts - on January 1, 2011.

Set within the casino floor of the Golden Moon Hotel and Casino, the Golden Moon Event Center can hold 4,500 patrons for a variety of special events ranging from concerts and comedy showcases to touring shows and exclusive, limited engagement performances. An adjustable stage, paired with a state-of-the-art sound system, will afford guests an up-close and personal experience with their favorite entertainers.

"Pearl River Resort prides itself on providing our more than two million guests annually the best in entertainment and this new event center will no doubt serve as a new showcase for delivering this promise," said Susan O'Connell, chief operating officer of Pearl River Resort. "With a world-class casino event venue in place, Pearl River Resort can host A-list talent from around the country further adding to the most comprehensive casino resort amenities in the region including first-class accommodations, award-winning restaurants, a luxury spa, Geyser Falls water theme park and two championship golf courses at our Dancing Rabbit Golf Club."

Grand opening performance by Martina McBride and Joe Nichols is scheduled for Saturday, January 1, 2011 at 8 p.m., Golden Moon Event Center.

Other scheduled performances through 2011 include:

The O'Jays - Friday, January 14, 2011 at 8 p.m., Golden Moon Event Center;

Merle Haggard - Saturday, February 5, 2011 at 8 p.m., Golden Moon Event Center;

Jeff Foxworthy - Friday, March 4, 2011 at 8 p.m., Golden Moon Event Center;

Vince Gill - Friday, April 1, 2011 at 8 p.m., Golden Moon Event Center;

Larry the Cable Guy - Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 8 p.m., Golden Moon Event Center;

B.B. King - Friday, June 10, 2011 at 8 p.m., Golden Moon Event Center.

Pearl River Resort's market share continues to increase

Market share is the proportion of industry sales of a good or service that is controlled by a particular company and is usually broken down by geographic area. Enterprises like Pearl River Resort work to increase their market share in order to widen profit margins and increase earnings.

Pearl River Resort's share of the gaming market in Mississippi has increased for ten months in a row. Since December of 2009, Pearl River Resort has captured a larger and larger percentage of the total amount of money spent on gaming in Mississippi. This success was achieved through implementation of a strategic plan set in motion in 2007. The plan is a combination of foresight, smart management, aggressive marketing and hard work.

Mi̱ko Beasley Denson and Resort management have been streamlining operations, cutting expenses and aggressively pursuing new customers since before the Great Recession. Since that time, Resort performance has been turning around steadily and market share is expected to continue to grow.

A good deal of the credit for the turn around is owed to Resort employees whose dedication went a long way toward making this happen. Pearl River Resort employees have succeeded in maintaining the levels of service customers expect and that keeps them coming back.

Tribe awarded MEMA grant

The Choctaw Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is pleased to announce its receipt of a $51,587 Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. The planning project will take approximately one year to complete, & will address all natural hazards posing potential threats to lives & property on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in all eight Federally-recognized Choctaw communities.

Hazard Mitigation is just one important facet of the Tribe's overall emergency preparedness planning, which has been underway since 2007, & is an ongoing process. Community input meetings will be scheduled in all eight communities in the near future as Emergency Management proceeds in Hazard Mitigation planning efforts.

The Tribe is very pleased to have strong & productive working relationships not only with MEMA & FEMA officials, but also with the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, which also provides annual grants to Choctaw Emergency Management programs.

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Tribal representatives attended MEMA's Hazard Mitigation grantee orientation on Oct. 19 at MEMA Headquarters in Pearl. Pictured from left are Jana Henderson, MEMA Office of Mitigation, Grants Bureau; Hayward Bell, MBCI Planning Office; Jim Stingley, MEMA Hazard Mitigation Specialist; John Cumberland, MBCI Planning Office; Alvin Waiter, Tribal Administration; John Ferguson, Tribal Administration; Carolyn McKinney, MEMA Hazard Mitigation Planner; Doug Williams, MBCI Emergency Management Coordinator; & Billy Patrick, MEMA, Director of Mitigation, Planning Bureau.

MEMA, NWS holds tornado drill

The National Weather Service in Jackson conducted

..........continued next page

RESOLUTIONS

continued from page three

Native American Rights Fund (NARF) & the National Association of Indian Legal Services (NAILS), U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Program, Bureau of Justice Assistance & to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Choctaw Legal Defense & the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) & the National Association of Indian Legal Services (NAILS), was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 11-004, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc., & the Diabetes Program of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw, was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 11-005, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 11-006, approving attorney contract with Ta'Shia Gordon for services provided to the Department of Family & Community Services, was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 11-007, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Choctaw Homeland Security, & the United Houma Nation, was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 11-008, accepting an award from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Office of Mitigation, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency & to approve a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program agreement between Choctaw Emergency Management of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, was adopted 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Resolution CHO 11-009, approving a land exchange pursuant to the Choctaw Land Consolidation Act Plan, was tabled 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

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a statewide tornado drill on Oct. 20 to make sure residents remember what to do & are prepared for tornadoes. The NWS used the Routine Weekly Test on NOAA weather radio all hazards to simulate an actual tornado warning.

Mississippi has a long history of producing violent EF4 & EF5 tornadoes. Even with better technology & advanced warning times these storms can take lives & destroy homes.

The following are tornado safety tips to remember all year long:

- Monitor a NOAA weather radio for the latest information. These radios can be purchased at most major retailers.
- Communities will be alerted to a tornado warning either through radio & weather stations or by a warning siren.
- In case of a tornado warning, take cover. Avoid windows & go to the lowest floor if possible. Cover yourself with blankets or a mattress to protect from falling debris.
- If not at home, go to an enclosed windowless area, crouch down & cover your head.
- If in a car, get out & seek shelter. If no shelter is available, lie flat, face down on low ground & protect the back of your head with your arms.
- Do not panic.

For more information visit www.msema.org or call the media line at 866-920-6362. Information is also available on the National Weather Service's Web sites: www.nws.noaa.gov, http://www.srh.weather.gov/jan/.

Flu is a serious, contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization, even death

The Choctaw Health Department (CHD) & the Rural Clinics are urging all tribal members to get a flu shot this season. The 2010-11 flu vaccine is a combination of vaccines that will protect you against Influenza A H3N2, Influenza B virus & the 2009 H1N1 virus.

Everyone 6 months of age & older should get vaccinated against the flu. People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart & lung disease & people 65 years & older.

Vaccination is also important for health care workers, & other people who live with or care for high risk people. Children younger than 6 months old are at a high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for them should be vaccinated instead.

There are things you can do to help stop the spread of flu germs:

- Cover your nose & mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze & be sure to throw the tissue into the trash after you have used it. If you don't have tissue handy, cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Wash your hands often with soap & water. If soap & water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub (like Germ-X).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs love to find a way into your body.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, it is recommended that you stay at home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessary reasons.
- While you are sick, try to limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

If you do get the Flu:

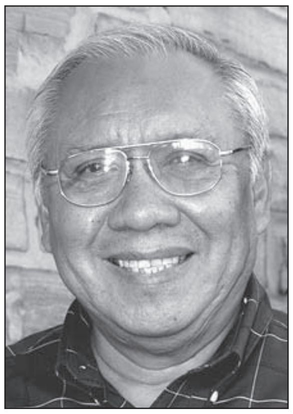
- See your doctor or health-care provider... they may prescribe antiviral drugs to treat your illness.
- Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pill, liquid or an inhaled powder) & are not available over-the-counter.
- Antiviral drugs can make illness milder & shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications.
- It is very important that antiviral drugs be used early (within the first 2 days of symptoms) to treat people who are very sick (such as those who are hospitalized) or people who are sick with flu symptoms & who are at increased risk of severe flu illness, such as pregnant women, young children, people 65 & older & people with certain chronic health conditions.
- Flu-like symptoms include: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills & fatigue (tiredness). Some people may also have vomiting & diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, & have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

The CHD wants to help keep you as healthy as possible. You may visit one of our clinics (Conehatta, Red Water or Bogue Chitto) or stop by the CHD Outpatient Department to get your flu shot. Rural Clinic hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. & the Outpatient Clinic is open Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. If you have any questions, you may call 601-656-2211 & speak with one of our professional staff.

Chickaway announces candidacy for Tribal Chief

Billy G. Chickaway of the Conehatta Community has announced his candidacy for the Office of the Tribal Chief. Tribal elections are scheduled for June 7, 2011.

The following is from Chickaway's announcement:


Billy G. Chickaway

"Through this statement, I am announcing my candidacy for the Office of Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

I offer myself as a candidate because I believe that my commitment to service to the tribe, my life's experiences and training in tribal government, tribal enterprises, the military and the private sector have prepared me to serve the Choctaw people in this way. Since 1972, I have worked in service for the Choctaw people in various capacities. I offer the following qualifications for your thoughtful review and consideration.

- Secretary-Treasurer for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, 2003-2005.
- Chairman of the Tribal Council Health Committee (1997-2003) and Vice Chairman of the Choctaw Health Center Health Committee. Under my chairmanship, the Choctaw Health Center passed every Joint Commission review and tribal health care services improved greatly.
- Eight years as Tribal Council member from the Conehatta Community.
- Currently Benefits Manager for the entire Resort and formerly Special Assistant for Community Relations at the Resort level.
- General Supervisor of Manufacturing for Chahta Enterprises, learning the business from the production and personnel levels as a production supervisor, personnel supervisor, and general supervisor of personnel.
- Retired Master Sergeant (E7) from the 186th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Air National Guard based in Meridian, Mississippi.
- Electronics technician, Peavey Electronics.

I graduated from Choctaw Central High School and earned a liberal arts degree from East Central Community College and an AAS in electronics technology, also from East Central.

I have been married to the former Nellie M. Williams for 39 years and we have two sons and several grandchildren. I believe in justice, fair play, honesty, compassion, Christian values, and Choctaw Rights.

Our tribe has changed as the times have changed and I realize that each family and each community has different concerns and needs. Out of my respect for that, I will be visiting each household, in each community to talk to you personally, to determine what is most important to you about our future and to give you the chance to know and question me. I look forward to our time together."

LAW YOU CAN USE

by Kevin Brady, Esq.

The following scenario was posed to me.

A young man & a young woman enter a relationship which results in the birth of a child. The young man's name is on the birth certificate as he signed the application at birth. The couple & their child move into the home of the young man's parents. The young man & young woman never get married by license & common law marriage is not possible.

After one year, the young man & young woman begin to drift apart. The young woman finds a new boyfriend & moves out of the house with the minor child. There are no allegations of domestic violence or any type of abuse on either side. The situation has saddened the grandparents (the parents of the young man) because they spent the last 12 months bonding & helping to raise this minor child.

Let's examine everyone's rights.

Young woman - She is the natural mother of the minor child. Federal law is silent on most issues regarding custody between parents (i.e. the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) exempts custody disputes between parents from its jurisdiction). Under the Choctaw Tribal Code 9-3-9, a determination by the court regarding the best interest of the child must be made. The court must look at the past conduct & moral standards of each parent & give consideration that the mother is presumed to be best fit to raise the minor child.

The law of the state of Mississippi, if applied, would require an *Albright* factor analysis. The term "*Albright factor*" comes from the child custody case, *Albright v. Albright*, 437 So. 2d 1003, 1005 (Miss. 1983). The court in *Albright* held that the polestar consideration is the **best interest of the child**. The factors used to determine what is in the "best interests" of a child with regard to custody are:

(1) age, health & sex of the child;

(2) determination of the parent that had the continuity of care prior to the separation;

(3) which parent has the best parenting skills & which has the willingness & capacity to provide primary child care;

(4) the employment of the parent & responsibilities of that employment;

(5) physical & mental health & age of the parents;

(6) emotional ties of the parent & child;

(7) moral fitness of the parents;

(8) the home, school & community record of the child;

(9) the preference of the child at the age sufficient to express a preference by law;

(10) stability of home environment & employment of each parent; &

(11) other factors relevant to the parent-child relationship.

Young man - He is believed to be the natural father of the minor child & the birth certificate sets forth that legal presumption; however, it may be raised by either him or the mother of the child that he is not the biological father. If that issue is raised, DNA testing will be required by all courts to prove or disprove paternity. As the couple was not married, the presumption of the state of Mississippi that the husband of a pregnant woman is the father of child is not triggered.

The young man would be forced to seek custody under the same law as the mother. Choctaw Tribal Code 9-4-4 would not aid him regarding removal of the child from the home as the section specifically refers to a **spouse** removing the child from the marital home. In our scenario, no marriage existed.

Grandparents - The grandparents are in a very weak legal position. As fitness of the parents is not an issue, it would be doubtful that a court would remove the child from both parents & grant custody to the grandparents, either through a guardianship or third party custody case. (There is a difference of opinion as to whether the Choctaw Tribal Code allows third party custody cases). The grandparents would be more likely to obtain visitation rights, especially if their son, the young man, does not seek his own visitation periods or custody.

In short, the best way to have a meaningful relationship with your grandchildren is to have a meaningful relationship with the parents of your grandchildren.

Tribe to maintain sex offender registry

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Tribal Council passed a resolution on April 13, 2010 to maintain a Choctaw Sex Offender Registry that will be administered by Choctaw Department of Public Safety (CDPS). This is a result of the federal Adam Walsh Child Safety Act that was signed into law July 26, 2006.

Who will have to register?

An individual who was convicted of, been acquitted by reason of insanity of, twice adjudicated delinquent of, plead nolo contendre, plead guilty, or been found guilty of a sex offense or attempted sex offense.

AND

- Lives on Choctaw Reservation land; **OR**
- Works or volunteers on the Choctaw Reservation either full-time or part-time, with or without compensation; **OR**
- Attends any type of school on the Choctaw Reservation as an enrolled student on a full-time or part-time basis.

**A sex offender under 14 years of age is not required to register.*

Are Sex Offenders Excluded from the Reservation?

- Any nonmember sex offender within the boundaries of the Reservation is excluded from the reservation with certain exemptions.
- Any member Tier III sex offender convicted after April 13, 2010 can no longer live on Reservation lands.

What Crimes Require Registration?

The Tribal Code defines a sex offense "a criminal offense…that has an element involving a sexual act or sexual contact with another; or a criminal offense... that is specified offense against a minor."

A complete list of offenses can be found in section §32-1-1(15) & (18) of the Tribal Code.

How & where does an offender register?

Sex offenders must register in person at the CDPS-Criminal Investigation Division. The Office is located at 125 River Ridge Circle, Choctaw, MS 39350 in the downstairs area near Choctaw Police Department. Here, the sex offender completes & signs a convicted sex offender Registration Form & an Acknowledgement of Convicted Sex Offender Duty to Register Form. The sex offender's fingerprints & palm prints are taken, as well as a photograph & a DNA sample.

*Registry Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

How often does an offender report to verify information?

A sex offender must register in-person at the CDPS Registry Office regularly according to the severity of the sex offense for which they were convicted. This is called a "Tier" of offense.

Tier 1 sex offenders report once (1) a year; Tier II report every six (6) months; & Tier III report every (3) months. Offenders report if they are employed or attend school on Tribal Land. The sex offender updates his information & a new photograph is taken & published to the website.

Is an offender required to report changes of information?

Yes. If any of a sex offender's required registration information changes, he must personally report to the Sex Offender Registry Office within 3 business days to report the changes. This is required for any & all changes in registration information.

Are any locations restricted to sex offenders?

Sex offenders are not legally allowed to be present at or within 1,500 feet of school properties that are used by minors. Any sex offender convicted after April 13, 2010, cannot live within 2,500 feet of any school. If a school is built or placed within that distance of the home of a registered sex offender, the sex offender must notify the CDPS one week prior to opening of the school.

What about schools?

If a sex offender is a parent or guardian of a child attending school there are exceptions for that offender being present on school property. The only allowable reasons are:

- Attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of the sex offender's child academically or socially;
- Participating in child review conferences in which evaluation & placement decisions regarding special education services;
- Attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning the sex offender's child such as retention & promotion;
- Transporting the sex offender's child to & from school;
- Present at the school because the presence of the sex offender has been requested by the principal for any other reason relating to the welfare of the child.

There are specific steps the sex offender must comply with in order to obtain permission for any of the reasons listed above. Details regarding this process are available at the Sex Offender Registry Office.

Can a sex offender volunteer to work with minors?

If the sex offender is a volunteer at any organization that includes direct, private or unsupervised contact with minors, the sex offender must notify in writing the organization of his sex offender status when he volunteers. Note: *This applies to all registered sex offenders regardless of the date of conviction.*

Can a sex offender be employed in a job working near minors?

A registered sex offender may request a waiver from the Tribal Chief if they are employed in this zone of restriction (a property utilized by minors). However, the sex offender is required to be under constant supervision by an immediate supervisor.

What happens to a sex offender who fails to comply?

If a sex offender fails to register, report to verify informa-

........see REGISTRY, pg. 8

LTC Ahshapanek takes command

LTC Don C. Ahshapanek took command of the 1-204th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 1 Aug 10. The 1-204th, a Mississippi Army National Guard Battalion unit, has a long heritage that can be traced back to World War II when it was known as the 2nd BN 609th Coastal Artillery Aircraft.

The unit has been an active participant in the Global War on Terror since Sept 11, 2001. They are now preparing for upcoming overseas contingency operations. During the ceremony, LT COL Ahshapanek said he was ready for the challenges ahead.

"It is a great honor & privilege to take command of the battalion. I want to thank the leadership choosing me to lead the soldiers of the 1-204th ADA. We will rise to meet the challenge; we will train together; we will hone our skills together." I will lead from the front & will go where you go, & I make a commitment to you to always be loyal. FIRST TO FIRE, LAST TO LEAVE.

LT COL Ahshapanek & his wife, Loriann, reside in Hattiesburg, Miss., where he serves as a Mobilization Planner for the 177th Armored Brigade at Camp Shelby, Miss. They have two sons, Sean (23) & DON III (22).

Pictured above, from left, are MG Freeman TAG MSARNG, Loriann Ahshapanek, LTC Don Ahshapanek, & Don Ahshapanek III.

REGISTRY .... continued from page seven

tion, or report changes in information as required by the Tribal Code, he becomes non-compliant.

The CDPS will attempt to locate the sex offender at his last known address. If the sex offender is located, the CDPS enforces the provisions of the law & notifies Choctaw Sex Offender Registry of the offender's current information.

If CDPS is unable to locate the sex offender, a criminal prosecution will be started against the offender for failure to comply with the registration requirements. CDPS will notify the U.S Marshal Service, issue a warrant, & enter the sex offender into the FBI's wanted persons database. This offender's status is "absconder."

How is the community informed of registered sex offenders?

There is a public website at **www.choctaw.org**. This website provides you with information about all sex offenders registered on tribal lands. You can sign up on the website to receive notifications of any changes in sex offender information in your zip code, or within certain distance from your home. You may also obtain a list of sex offenders from the CDPS for a fee.

Are all Choctaw communities included?

Yes. All Choctaw communities are included in the registration law. A list follows:

Pearl River (Choctaw), 39350;
Bogue Chitto (Philadelphia), 39350;
Tucker (Philadelphia), 39350;
Standing Pine (Walnut Grove), 39189;
Red Water (Carthage), 39051;
Conehatta, 39057;
Bogue Homa (Heidelberg), 39439;
Crystal Ridge (Louisville), 39339;
Attala Co. (Kosciusko), 39090;
Scott Co. (Forest), 39074;
Noxubee Co. (Macon), 39341;
Carroll Co. (Carrollton), 38917;
Ocean Springs, 39564.

For more information on Sex Offender Registration, view Tribal Code XXXII at **www.choctaw.org**. For specific questions, contact Krystina Martinez at the Choctaw Sex Offender Registry Office at 601-663-7835.

Recovery Month observed in Choctaw

A recovery walk took place on Sept. 30 in Choctaw as part of the 21st National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

The Choctaw Community Planning Coalition (CCPC) recently commemorated September as National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

The annual Road to Recovery Celebration, held on Sept. 30 at the Pearl River Amphitheater in Choctaw, featured a recovery walk, displays, refreshments, & an open speaker meeting. Over 150 were in attendance.

This year's theme was "Join the Voices for Recovery: Now More than Ever." Pastor Thomas Ben served as emcee. Entertainment was provided by Mystic Wind & the Southern Pine Singers.

Representatives from several Tribal programs were in attendance to provide information of services they offer.

After refreshments were served, several speakers gave personal accounts of how alcohol & drugs had taken a toll in their lives, but through treatment & support, they had overcome their troubles to continue living a productive life.

A serenity circle & the lighting of candles concluded the activities for the evening.

Recovery Month, in it's 21st year, serves to educate the public on substance abuse as a national health crisis, that addiction is a treatable disease, & that recovery is possible. It also highlights the benefits of treatment for not only the affected individual, but for their family, friends, workplace, & society as a whole.

The event was sponsored by the CCPC through funds provided by Drug Free Communities Support Grant, SAPT Block Grant & SPF SIG Grant Funds.

Candlelight vigil hosted by FVVS

The Family Violence & Victim's Services (FVVS) hosted the Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil on Oct. 22 at the Pearl River Facility Building in Choctaw.

Special Prosecutor Anthony Taylor served as program guide. After food & fellowship, Victim Assistance Coordinator Robert Ben offered the opening prayer, followed by a song by Cynthia Isaac. Program Manager & Lay Advocate Lanisha Bell welcomed those in attendance then introduced guest speakers. Afterwards, the lighting of candles was held & a clos-

..........continued next page

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has made available to interested governmental and private bodies and individuals a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the OVW grant program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grants to Indian Tribal Governments (ARRA GTTG), in Washington, DC to renovate ten housing units for victims of domestic violence on tribal lands. The FONSI is supported by an Environmental Assessment (EA) which studied potential environmental impacts associated with renovation of housing units at ten tribal land locations nationwide. Based on the information gathered during preparation of the EA, OVW finds that the proposed actions will not significantly impact the environment. The EA and FONSI are available at: http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/siw-gtc.htm. A limited number of hard copies are also available to fill single copy requests from: Marnie Shiels at marnie.shiels@usdoj.gov.

ing prayer was offered by Ben to conclude the event.

October is designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month as programs across the nation are committed to helping individuals & their families who face such devastating violence.

FVVS serves as the hub for all domestic violence & sexual assault issues on the reservation & provides & coordinates services that promote the safety, health & anonymity of domestic violence & sexual assault victims & their dependents.

It is the mission of FVVS to see the development of a zero-tolerance attitude among Choctaw people for domestic violence crimes & hope to promote a significant decline in the number of domestic violence & sexual assault crime on the reservation. For more information, call FVVS at 601-650-1774.

NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Two major events in September enabled the Choctaw Cultural Preservation Programs to reach out & educate the public about Choctaw culture and heritage.

Choctaw Expressions

On Sept. 22-24, the Choctaw Museum hosted Choctaw Expressions, a cultural arts festival promoting the arts of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Choctaw Tribal Schools & the general public were treated to three days of social dancing, hands-on arts & crafts, & speakers sharing their knowledge of the history & culture of the Tribe.

RIGHT, *CPP staff member Curtis Willis Jr. & elder Lucy Morris pose during the Choctaw Expressions activities.*

Marty Stuart Honor

For their first public performance, the Chahta Immi Hilha Alhiha - Cultural Preservation Programs' new dance group - performed at the unveiling of Marty Stuart's country music marker in downtown Philadelphia on Sept. 30, 2010.

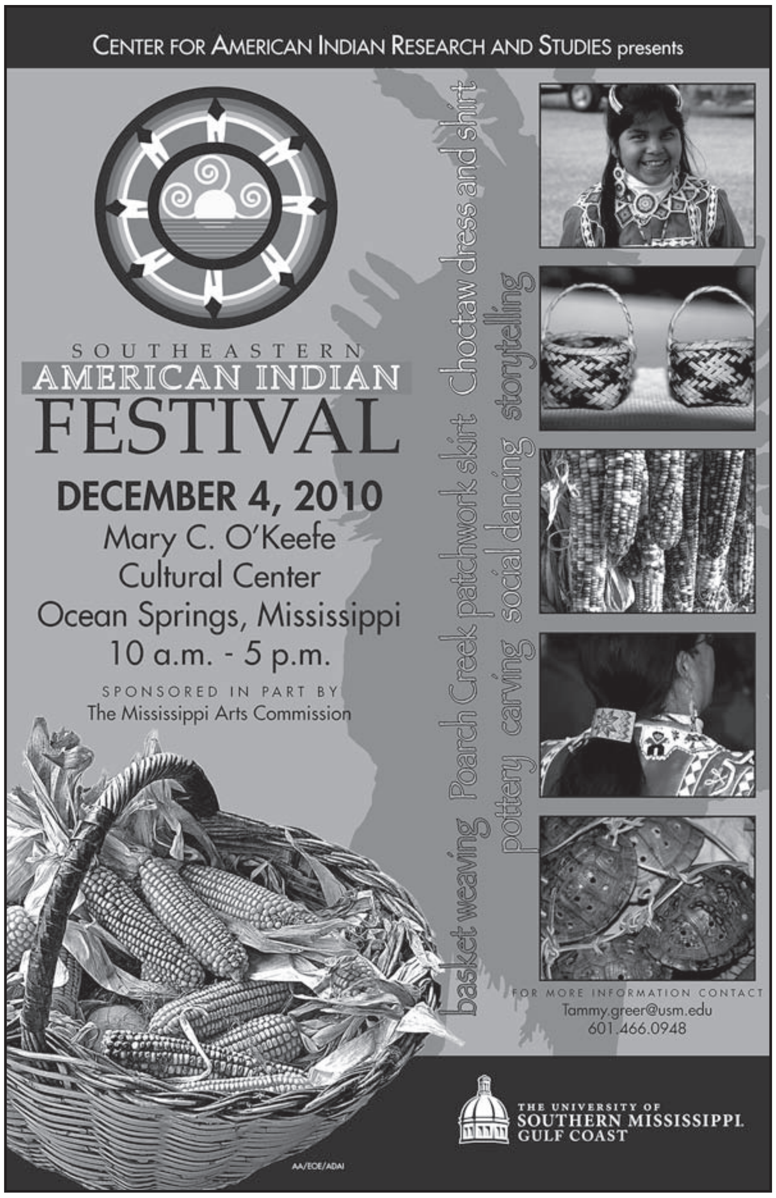
TURNER
SURVEYING A

Members of the Chahta Immi Hilha Alhiha dance group performed in front of Ellis Theater in downtown Philadelphia during a Country Music Marker unveiling for Marty Stuart on Sept. 30.

MARTY
PARTY
SEPT 30

Area Choctaw Tribal School children were able to participate in various activities offered at Choctaw Expressions.

A Choctaw craftsman demonstrates the process of making stickball sticks to the area school children.



CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN RESEARCH AND STUDIES presents

SOUTHEASTERN
AMERICAN INDIAN
FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 4, 2010
Mary C. O'Keefe
Cultural Center
Ocean Springs, Mississippi
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SPONSORED IN PART BY
The Mississippi Arts Commission

basket weaving Poarch Creek patchwork skirt Choctaw dress and shirt
pottery carving social dancing storytelling

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Tammy.greer@usm.edu
601.466.0948

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

AA/EOE/ADAI

Tribal School students take part in STEP

The Division of Multicultural Affairs at University of Mississippi Medical Center sponsors a Science Training Enrichment Program (STEP) each year. Candidates for the program must be in grades 6-8, demonstrate an interest and potential for high achievement, maintain a high grade point average in school.

Students in the program will explore courses in science, mathematics, writing, computer skills, cultural awareness, and health careers.

The program provides opportunities for students through lecturers, classroom demonstrations, field trips, mentoring relationships and shadowing experiences.

Students will attend classes at University Medical Center one Saturday a month beginning in September 2010 and ending in March 2011.

Choctaw Tribal Schools is proud to announce the following students who were accepted into the program for the 2010-11 school year:

Sixth Grade

Dylan Ben, Standing Pine; Annisah Farve, Pearl River; Candace Jefferson, Standing Pine; Melody Jimmie, Conehatta; Hannah Lewis, Conehatta; Allison Meely, Pearl River; Betty Mingo, Standing Pine; Angelia Morales, Standing Pine; Mya Williamson, Conehatta; Aaleyiah Willis, Red Water; Megan Sockey, Red Water.

Seventh Grade

Emilee Thames, CCMS; Hannah Williams, CCMS; Hallie Denson, CCMS; Justice Fielder, CCMS; Wilson Dixon, CCMS; Jason McMillan, CCMS; Harvey McMillan, Conehatta; Nicholas Joe, Tucker; Alexis King, Red Water; Autumn McMillan, Tucker.

Eighth Grade

AshRhonda Robinson, Bogue Chitto; Keaton Taylor, Conehatta; Nikkita Mingo, Bogue Chitto; Selena John, Red Water.

Congratulations students!

CCHS Maroon Band places fourth in championships

The Choctaw Central High School Maroon Band placed fourth in the Mississippi State Marching Band Championships in Class 3A competition on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010. They came home with the following awards: first place, Color Guard; second place, Visual; third place, Percussion; & fourth place, Band. Members include (drum major) Kyle Taylor, (hornline) Christin Jim, Alex Billy, Bronson Henderson, Destiny Tubby, Kobe York, Breanna Isaac, Trenton Johnson, Simon Isaac, Robert York, Deon Denson, Tyrell Anderson, Halle Wilson, Keyshawn York, (color guard) Jasmine Comby, Sahinna Anderson, Rebecca York, Destini York, Mariah Johnson, Lanena John, Tori Johnson, Elisa York, (percussion) Adam Dixon, Scott Smith, Lattener Johnson, Hunter Jones, Arishanda Jefferson, & Taylor York. Band director is Elter Wilson. Assistants are Elijah Ben, Dorian Trahan & Larry McCullough.

BCES releases honor roll

Bogue Chitto Elementary School recently released the honor roll for the first nine-weeks.

Students on the Mi̱ko's List attained all A's. Those on the Principal's List attained all A's & B's.

Mi̱ko's List

First grade - Neera Bell, Picabo Bell, Jaycia Chickaway, Alexandria Wallace, Alexis Wesley.

Second grade - Daysia Henry, Quentin McClelland, Cheyan Robinson.

Third grade - Ryan Henry, Julian Joe, Martina Willis.

Fourth grade - Jamion Johnson.

Fifth grade - Anne Henry, Jade Willis.

Principal's List

First grade - Leanna Bell, Cruz Ben, Nazayah Cabrera, Leighten Henry, Dimarques Jim, Manuel Ramirez-Perez.

Second grade - Jarvis Bell, Chaney Billy, Devin Collins, Garcia Dixon, Tyiesha Dixon, Evangeline Hall, Camilee Nene, Christy Thomas.

Third grade - Hunter Amos, Dakota Bautista, Michael Bell, Gabriel Clemmons, Dewayne Cotton, Malahta Henry, Jillian Lasiloo, Kendrick Wesley.

Fourth grade - Breanda Ben, Brianna Ben, Katelyn Collins, Draven Cotton, Sasha Cotton, Isiaha Dixon, Tom Hickman, Shawn Isaac, Tayler Morris, Canaan Nickey, Enchil Thompson, Bradley Tubby, Kenyatta Willis.

Fifth grade - Gabrielle Crosby, Mahali Henry, Summer John, Ethan King, Preston Stoliby, Hope Thames.

Sixth grade - Camry Mingo, Relissia Ray.

Seventh grade - Peyton Bell.

9th Annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament scheduled for Nov. 20

Teams solve real-world problems through robot design and research at the 9th annual Choctaw Tribal Schools FIRST LEGO, League Tournament on Nov. 20, 2010.

More than 130 students from the Choctaw Tribal Schools and Neshoba Elementary have been tasked with the challenge and excitement of designing and building an original robot in the FIRST LEGO, League program (www.firstlegoleague.org).

Saturday, November 20, 2010, at the Pearl River Elementary School Gymnasium, eight weeks of research and design will culminate in the Choctaw

............see LEGO, pg. 12

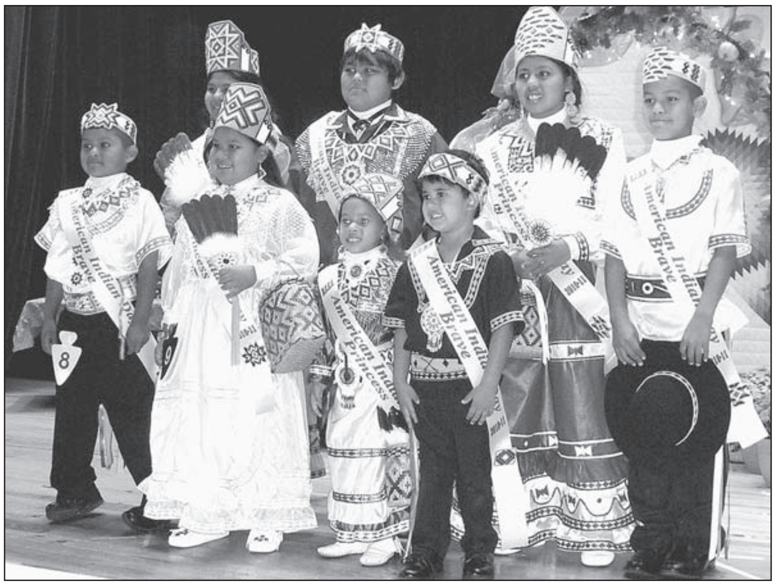
BCES students learn compare, contrast

Mrs. Hoskin's third grade class at Bogue Chitto Elementary School recently worked on "compare & contrast." They got into groups of two & found alike & unlike qualities about them & recorded them on their chart.

Choctaw Central Middle School would like to congratulate all of our students that participated in the American Indian Day pageant.

American Indian Day at Bogue Chitto Elementary

What a great day Bogue Chitto Elementary School had during its American Indian Day celebration. Many activities were enjoyed. Of course, there was Choctaw dancing as well as the annual brave/princess pageant, stickball games, rabbit stick throw, washer throw, and a great lunch. Special thanks to the American Indian Committee for all their hard work.



Front row from left, Category 2 Brave Xander Henry, Princess Jaycia Chickaway, Category 1 Princess Sa'Nya Jackson, Brave Noah Ben; back row, Category 4 Princess Ga"yu"eze Morris, Brave Peyton Bell, Category 3 Princess Whitney Willis, & Brave Canaan Nickey.

Students enjoy a game of stickball (left) and participating in the Walk Dance (right).

Wins computer & printer

Choctaw Central Middle School would like to congratulate Anitra Frazier who won a computer & printer given away on Community Relations Day. Mrs. Diane Johnston from the Title 1 Parent Center is shown presenting the computer & printer to Frazier. Pictured, from left, are Breanna Lasiloo, Kandace Lasiloo, Anitra Frazier, & Diane Johnston.

LEGO .... **continued from page eleven**

Tribal Schools FIRST LEGO, League Tournament where teams of children and mentors will demonstrate their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship and sense of community. This action-packed event is free and open to the public.

In this year's Challenge, "Body Forward", FLL teams will explore the cutting-edge world of Biomedical Engineering to discover innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions, and maximize the body's potential, with the intended purpose of leading happier and healthier lives.

The competition is judged in five areas: research and presentation; robot performance; technical mechanics of the robot's construction; teamwork; and gracious professionalism. The highest honor will go to the team that best exemplifies the spirit and values of the program.

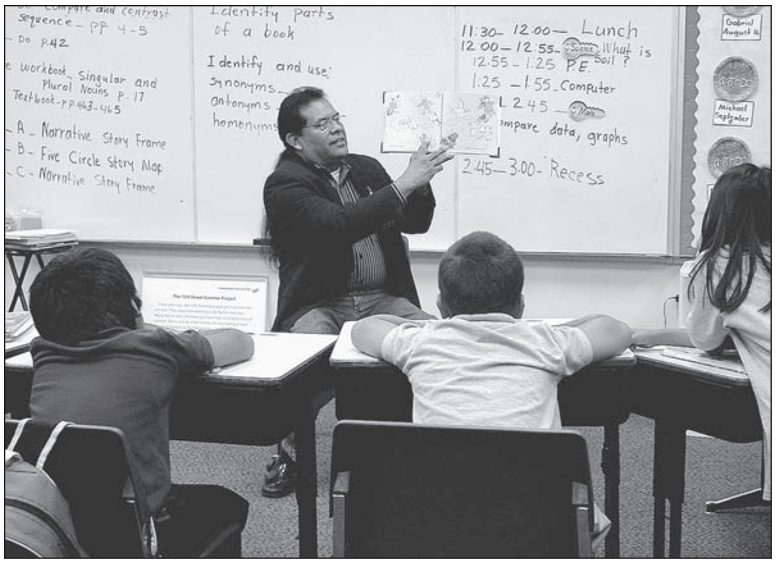
Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was created to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. FIRST LEGO, League is an international program for 9 to 14 year-old children created in a partnership between FIRST and the LEGO Company in 1998.

Each September, FIRST LEGO, League announces the annual Challenge to teams, which engages them in authentic scientific research and hands-on robotics design. Using LEGO MINDSTORMS‰ technologies and LEGO bricks, children work alongside adult mentors to design, build and program robots to solve real-world challenges. After 8 intense weeks, the competition season culminates at high-energy, sports-like tournaments.

Since it's beginning, FIRST has had a positive impact on students and academic communities. "We need to show kids that it's more fun to design and create a video game than it is to play one," said Dean Kamen, FIRST Founder. "In FIRST LEGO, League, kids discover career possibilities and learn to make positive contributions to society."

RWES American Indian Day activities

(ABOVE) *2010 American Indian Pageant winners were, front row from left, Elias Bell, Kerri Wilson, Claudia Kopaddy, Diego Arvizu, Zander Sockey, Sissie Gibson; back row, Brianna Mitch, Samantha Wilson (last year's winner), Eric Dixon, Myric Anderson, Rebekah Willis, Alexis King, & Michael Willis.* **(RIGHT)** *Red Water students enjoying stickball games.*


Identify parts of a book
Identify and use: synonyms antonyms homonyms
11:30 – 12:00 – Lunch
1:25 – 1:55 Computer
Compare data, graphs
2:45 – 3:00 – Recess

OCTOBER READ ALOUD MONTH

As part of Read Aloud Month activities, Bogue Chitto Tribal Councilman Ronnie Henry shared several books with Mrs. Hoskins' third grade class. All the students enjoyed Mr. Henry reading Dora the Donkey, Goosebumps, & Clifford's First Christmas. Thank you Mr. Henry!

Pre-K students learn to recognize their names

Pre-K teacher Deborah Myers works with her pre-K students to recognize their name. As she holds up a student's name, that student stands up & the rest of the students clap.

New RWES teacher, coach

Michelle Tangle, right, joins Red Water Elementary staff as a physical education teacher & coach.

RWES announces honor roll

Red Water Elementary School recently released the honor roll for the first nine-weeks.

Students on the Miko's List attained all A's. Those on the Principal's List attained all A's & B's.

Miko's List

Breely Wilson, Maria Lopez-Cruz, Sissie Gibson, Arionna Dixon, Liliana Amos, Morgan Hutchison, Myric Anderson, Errol John II, Rayden Sockey, & Catina Townsend.

Principal's List

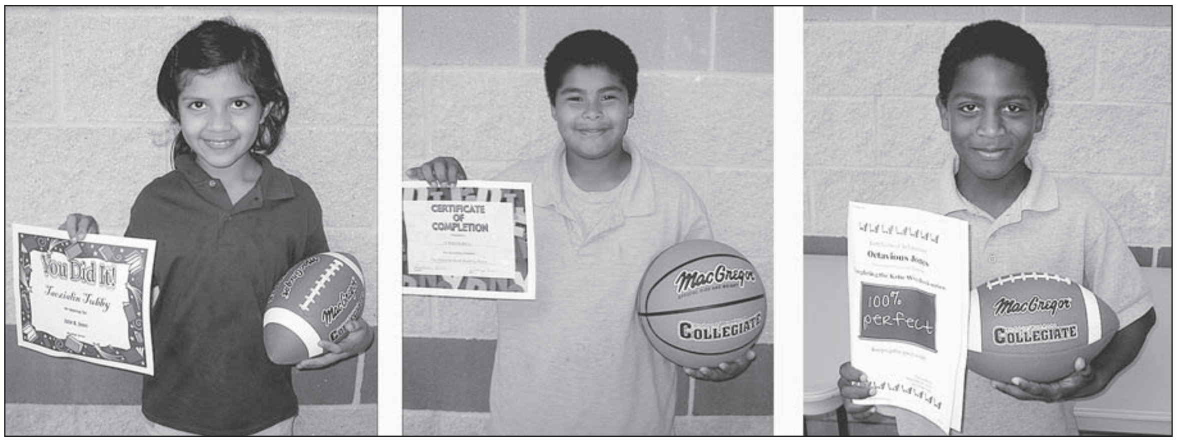
Zander Sockey, Ajaina Marinez, Avontae Jones, Kevan Willis, Iverson Allen, Pernilla Arvizu, Jaida Bell, Michaela Dixon, Armando Lopez, Taezialin Tubby, Sheyann Bell, Savannah McCombs, Kaleb Solomon, Catherine Tubby, Malayiah Willis, Rey Barragan, Destinee Jones, Jayshun Thomas, Sami Wilson, Megan Sockey, Aaleyiah Willis, Onedaro Dixon, Alexis King, Kordell Wishork, & Selena John.

Blood sugar checks at RWES

Red Water Elementary School nurse Diana Alex, second from right, & employees of the Diabetes Prevention Program at Choctaw Health Center perform blood sugar checks on students & staff at Red Water as part of the school wellness program.

RWES holds Open House

Red Water Elementary School held its Open House on Aug. 23, 2010. Parents visited classrooms & attended a meeting in the gym. Supplemental programs & last year's test scores were discussed. Diane Johnston presented "I care" & Parent of the Year. Michelle Tangle used students to demonstrated the hip hop sports program. At the conclusion of the meet, dinner was served in the cafeteria. Thank you to everyone who attended & helped make this event possible.



RWES students complete reading goal

(LEFT) *Taezialin Tubby, a third grade student at Red Water Elementary, completed her first reading goal for the school year 2010-11. Taezialin read the complete reading series of The Junie B. Jones books & received a football from her teacher, Mrs. Keen, for her accomplishment. Taezialin has already set her second goal, which is to read The Arthur Books.* **(CENTER)** *O'rieon Bell is one happy third grade student at Red Water Elementary. He has completed his first reading goal for the school year 2010-11. For his accomplishment, O'rieon received a basketball from his teacher, Mrs. Keen.* **(RIGHT)** *Octavious Jones received a football for reading the complete Katie Woo book series. He is in Mrs. Keen's third grade class.*

Mercedes Peters, third grader, completed the Katie Woo series of books & passed with 85 percent correct. She recently transfered to Red Water Elementary from Germany.

RWES Sept. Attendance Trophy winners

Congratulations to Red Water Elementary School's third graders for winning the attendance trophy for September. They had an ADA rate of 97.92. The class is taught by Tammy Keen & Betty Ross. Pictured, front row from left, are Aliyah King, Pernilla Arvizu, Taezialin Tubby, Anna Flores; middle row, Layla Willis, Michaela Dixon, Keri Jim, Mercedez Wilson, Natory Tsosie; back row, Iverson Allen, O'Rieon Bell, Octavious Jones, & Armando Lopez.

RWES August Attendance Trophy

Congratulations to the Pre-K class at Red Water Elementary. They won the 6-foot high attendance trophy for the month of August with an ADA rate of 99 percent. Pictured, front row from left, are Gabriel Chitto, Lexi Flint, Zamira Willis, Kaymond Gibson, Buford Billie, Shaleah Amos; back row, Titan Henry, Rocky Isom, Elias Bell, Trishelle John, Carmelo Dixon, Acarnan Denson, & Trason John. The class is taught by Deborah Myers & Cindell Hickman.

RWES holds Jr. Beta Club induction ceremony

Red Water Elementary held its National Jr. Beta Club induction ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, at the Golden Palace Chinese Restaurant in Carthage. Seven students were inducted into the Beta Club - Jordan Bell, Destinee Jones, Catina Townsend, Samantha Wilson, Rey Barragan, Delano John, & Jayshun Thomas. They join current members Selena John, Alexis King, Megan Sockey, & Aaleyiah Willis. Beta Club sponsors are Jennifer Olmedo & Beverly Overstreet. Pictured, front row from left, are Megan Sockey, Jordan Bell, Samantha Wilson, Catina Townsend; middle row, Rey Barragan, Delano John, Jayshun Thomas; back row, Aaleyiah Willis, Destinee Jones, Alexis King, & Selena John.

SPES releases honor roll

Standing Pine Elementary School recently released the honor roll for the first nine-weeks.

Students on the Mi̱ko's List averaged 90 or higher. Those on the Principal's List averaged 80 or higher.

Mi̱ko's List

First grade - Armando Ben, Destiny Lewis, Lakenya Miller, Thomas Tangle, & Samuel Tubby.

Second grade - Traiton Martin, Nosikah Melendez, Tiger Munoz, & Jocelyn Wesley.

Third grade - Shemah Crosby, Kelsey Tangle & Larissa Willis.

Fourth grade - Brayon

..........continued next page

SPES 2010-11 Jr. Beta Club

Pictured right are members of the 2010-2011 Jr. Beta Club at Standing Pine Elementary School. Front row, from left, are new members Jayasri Mitch, Skylar Comans, Isaiah Mingo, Ichukash Solomon, Brias Bell, Daron Isaac, Dylan Ben. (Not pictured is Kindle Sam). Back row are returning members Angelia Morales, Candace Jefferson, Betty Mingo, & Jaydre Bell. Congratulations!

Computer Center
Tali Lopi Aahikiya

Pictured left,

Making frybread at SPES

Pre-K Assistant Erica Farve & Kindergarten Assistant Danielle Wesley celebrated American Indian Day with Pre-K & kindergarten students from Standing Pine Elementary School by making traditional fry bread. The students enjoyed making, as well as eating, the fry bread.

Standing Pine Elementary 2010-2011 American Indian Day Pageant Winners

RIGHT, *Category 1 winners Jalen Willis & Katie Sockey.*

LIL BRAVE
LIL PRIN

Category 2 winners Armando Ben & Laliana Crosby.

BRAVE
PRINCESS

Category 3 winners Arrow Scott & Jayasri Mitch.

Farve, Arrow Scott, Tyrese Solomon, & Sydni Tangle.

Fifth grade - Jayasri Mitch.

Principal's List

First grade - Raul Arreola, Ethen Hernandez, Seth Thomas, & Tiak Willis.

Second grade - Caitlin Arreola, Echo Ben, Laliana Crosby, Deon Lewis, Syahinah Wheeler, & Arissa Willis.

Third grade - Enrique Arreola, Iris Farve & Graviel Velasco.

Fourth grade - Haylee Thomas.

Fifth Grade - Skylar Comans, Isaiah Mingo & Kindle Sam.

Sixth grade - Dylan Ben, Candace Jefferson, Betty Mingo, Angelia Morales, & Ichukash Solomon.

SPES hosts Soup & Story Night

Standing Pine Elementary School-PTO's first ever "Soup & Story Night" was a success. We were overwhelmed by the participation we got from parents, students & staff. This event included five different story stations with parents & teachers as readers, along with Diane Johnston from the Parent Center & David Germany, Director of Schools. After listening to the wonderful stories, everyone enjoyed a hot bowl of soup provided by parents from the PTO. In addition, we had the Book Fair open to give parents a chance to bring their child. The SPES-PTO would like to thank everyone for their participation in making this event a SUCCESS!

CCHS hosts 2010 Senior, Parents Night

Choctaw Central High School honored senior members of the Warriors football team, cheerleading squad and the band during Senior & Parents Night on Friday, Oct. 22. Ceremonies were held during halftime & the conclusion of the football contest. The Warriors (5-5) defeated Clarkdale 50-20 to earn a berth in this year's playoffs, their first appearance since 1996. **ABOVE**, Senior members of the Warriors football team included, kneeling from left, Andrew Berry, Garrick Stoliby, Djon John, Emerson King, Monte Farve, Lenoise Willis; standing, Jonathan Cotton, Evan Sam, Kaiser Cotton, Zach Billie, Craig Dixon, Josh Farmer, Jayson Wallace, & Josh Smith.

LEFT, Senior band members & cheerleaders included, from left, Kyle Taylor, Destini York, Taylor York, Sahinna Anderson, Lattener Johnson, & Bronson Henderson.

Order Your
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program
Horticulture Training Program

Interoffice Mail this Order Form to Dick Hoy or Jonathan Williams at the Horticulture Training Program (389-0953) to pre-order your Christmas Poinsettias. Payment must be paid at time of order. Checks should be made to Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program. Orders will not be taken after the designated date. Cancellations, changes or reimbursements cannot be made.

"Produced by the Proud Hands of Workers with Disabilities"

Quantity

Red 6 ½ " Pot, 3-4 blooms with pot cover $9.25 ________

Red 8 "Pot, 10-12 blooms with pot cover $18.75________

Name:________________________________

Telephone Number:________________________________

Amount Paid:________________________________

Receipt Number:________________________________

CCHS cross country team places at meet

The Choctaw Central High School Cross Country Team participated in the 2010 Northeast Lauderdale High School Cross Country Meet on Saturday, October 2. Pictured above, from left, are CCHS members who placed at the meet: Deshayna Hickman, 3rd place; Breanna Vaughn, 6th place; Mason Farmer, 11th place; Sydney Butler, 14th place; Audrey Jimmie, 9th place; & Renaysia Polk, 4th place.

AGT
Applied Geo Technologies, Inc.

Denson selected as AGT's 2010 RISE recipient

Applied Geo Technologies (AGT) is proud to announce Melody Morgan Denson as the 2010 Raising Initiatives in Science and Engineering (RISE) scholarship recipient. She was awarded $1,000 and an internship opportunity with AGT. Ms. Denson's selection was based on her GPA, application presentation, school attendance, letters of recommendation and interview. Created in 2008, the RISE scholarship program is for students pursuing degrees in science and engineering. Congratulations on a job well done, Melody! -*submitted by June Palmieri*

ECCC Native American Club honors late Chief Martin

Native American Club officers and sponsors at East Central Community College (ECCC) are shown with a bench the organization purchased in memory of the late Mississippi Band of Choctaws Chief Phillip Martin. Inscribed on the bench, prominently displayed on the Decatur campus, are the following words: *"Before the road of education was paved with gold, it was all dirt and gravel, but with the vision of Chief Phillip Martin, now it is a better road to travel. Yakoki Chief Martin."* ECCC posthumously honored Chief Martin with a Lifetime Achievement Award during homecoming activities held Saturday, Oct. 2. Seated from left are Nigel Allen of Carthage, NAC president; Anistasia Nickey of Philadelphia, vice president; and Brennan Graves of Lena, chaplain. Standing from left are Leslie Hughes, director of library services and Native American Club sponsor; Monte Isaac of Philadelphia, treasurer; Crystal Frazier of Conehatta, secretary; and Elizabeth Minter, librarian and Native American Club sponsor. (EC Photo)

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS NEWS & NOTES

BOK CITO UNIT

Halito! From Bok Cito Unit & Staff. We congratulate our 2010-2011 Princess & Braves winners from our American Indian Day Pageant held on Sept. 28. In our 5-7 division, winners were Nazayah Cabrera & Zander Waiter. In our 8-11 division, winners were Christiana Amos & Denzel Mingo (pictured next page).

We would like to thank all who participated in our pageant. Bok Cito Unit would also like to thank Pearl River staff member Alicia Vaughn for making our crowns. And last but not least, thanks to our parents for supporting your Bok Cito Boys & Girls Club.

On Sept. 3, the Bok Cito Unit held a back to school pool party for the teens at the Bok Cito Community Pool. The staff & unit would like to thank Diamond Hundley & her staff for making the event a success.

The time has came to say farewell to some of our grants workers. Bok Cito Unit appreciated all that you did while working with Boys & Girls Clubs. The following staff will truly be missed - Howard Tubby, Dalton Willis, Missy Bell & Jay Thompson. We wish you the best in all that you do & hope that the path you take will lead you back to Bok Cito Boys & Girls Club.

Tribal members with disabilities attend conference, expo

Choctaw Community Fund Grant to Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program supports Tribal members with disabilities to attend Rehabilitation Association of Mississippi Training Conference and Expo

In 2010, the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and Office for Independent Living Servicers Program received grant funds from the Choctaw Community Fund to increase self-advocacy skills of Choctaws who experience disabilities.

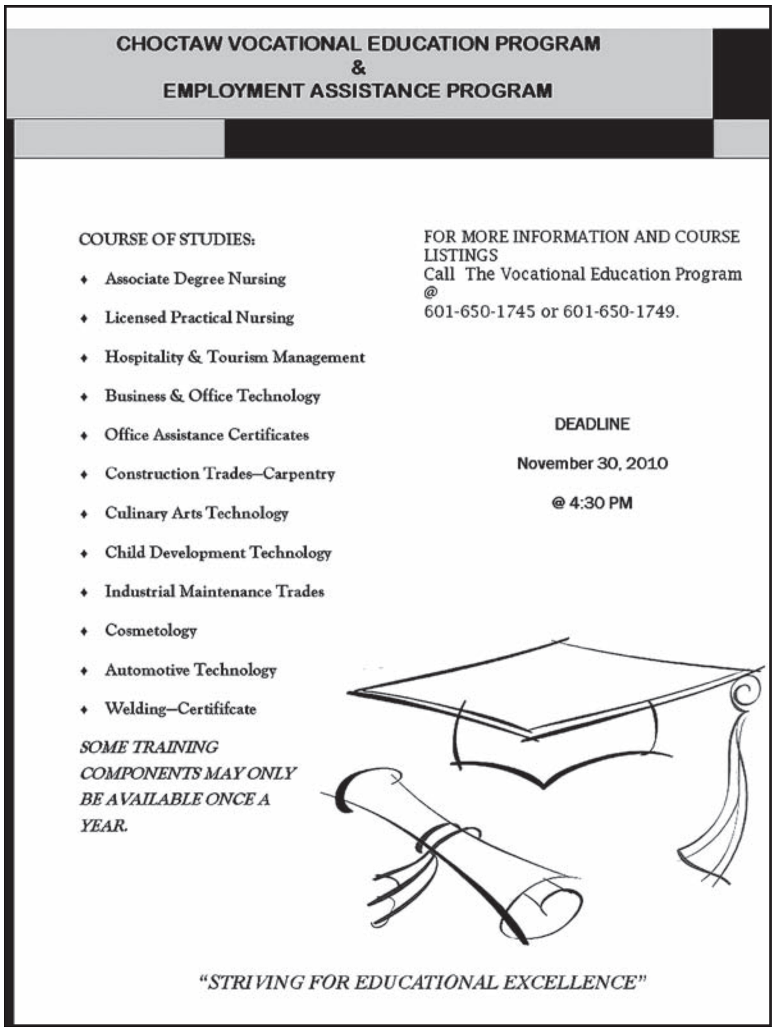
A unique opportunity for increasing self-advocacy skills occurred when the Rehabilitation Association of Mississippi (RAM) recently held their annual training conference for rehabilitation professionals on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' reservation at the Pearl River Resort Convention Center. RAM has long-standing partnership with the staff of the Tribe's Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program staff.

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center for the Blind
Services
• Independent living skills training
• Orientation & mobility
• Braille, communications
• Adult GED
• Computer training
• Vocational evaluation
• Low vision assessment
ADDIE MCBRYDE 14

Cindy Mingo visits one of the many information booths during the exhibitors expo at the RAM conference - learning more about services & products that are available statewide for individuals with disabilities.

Two individuals applied for financial assistance to attend the RAM conference. One of the participants, Cindy Mingo of the Pearl River Community, wrote in her application that she requested to attend "to learn more about my disability and meet other people and learn from them also. The RAM conference is a new outlook for me."

PICTURED RIGHT, *Winners of Bok Cito Unit's American Indian Day Pageant were, from left, 8-11 Princess Christiana Amos, 5-7 Princess Nazayah Cabrera, 5-7 Brave Zander Waiter, & 8-11 Brave Denzel Mingo.*



CHOCTAW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
&
EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

COURSE OF STUDIES:

- Associate Degree Nursing
- Licensed Practical Nursing
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Business & Office Technology
- Office Assistance Certificates
- Construction Trades—Carpentry
- Culinary Arts Technology
- Child Development Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Trades
- Cosmetology
- Automotive Technology
- Welding—Certififcate

SOME TRAINING COMPONENTS MAY ONLY BE AVAILABLE ONCE A YEAR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND COURSE LISTINGS
Call The Vocational Education Program
@
601-650-1745 or 601-650-1749.

DEADLINE

November 30, 2010

@ 4:30 PM

"STRIVING FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE"

Choctaw Employment & Training news

Welcome new participants! The Employment & Training's new program year began on July 1, 2010. On Aug. 21, fourteen (14) new participants began training at the Manpower Training Center.

Orientation was held in the morning. Afterwards, customers reported to their worksite in the afternoon. During the orientation process, each participant filled out new orientation packets, which included rules & regulations, coordinated agreement form, W-4 form with employee information & emergency contact, service record & reviewed time sheet procedures.

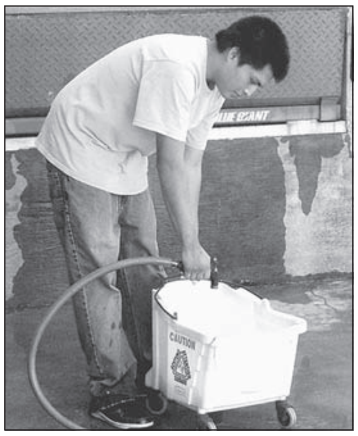
Program staff members Dawnena John, Employability Trainer, & Josephine Thompson, Job Placement Specialist, conducted the orientation & provided instructions to the world of works.

The Applying Practical Principles for a Lifetime of Employment (A.P.P.L.E.S.) Resource Guide Student Handbooks were given to each participant to be used for their job search. The A.P.P.L.E.S Resource Guide is able to empower students to identify & solve their own challenges, develop their own career goals, tap into the hidden job market, sell their strengths, understand the power of stepping stone job opportunities & not only learn to retain employment but also develop the skills to advance.

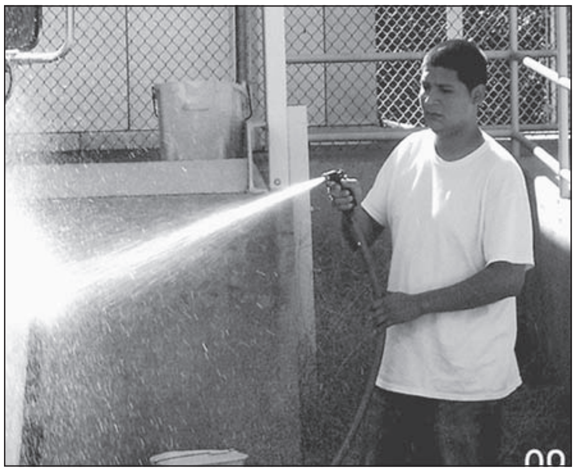
Participants also learned application process, resume writing & interview skills.

The Employment & Training staff is committed to

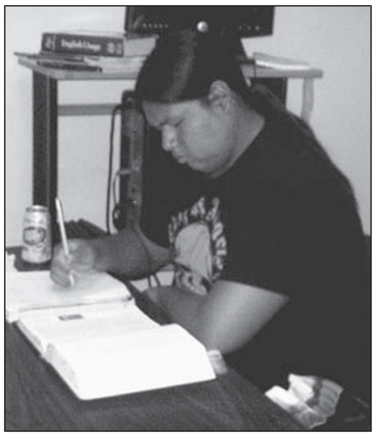
......see TRAINING, pg. 18



Dustin Polk is getting water ready to wash the truck at the Food Distribution Center.



Jermaine Taylor is getting the company truck ready to roll by washing it.



Jacob Hickman is preparing for his GED test at Adult Education.

CJ Mingo is loading the compactor to press boxes down.

Garcia Dixon puts boxes in the trash bin to be pressed.

Merrill Vaughn is moving pallets around. He is preparing for certification as a forklift driver.

TRAINING .... continued from page seventeen

helping participants obtain their job goals by placing customers in 8-weeks work experience, referral to GED classes, & assisting them in performing extensive job search & obtaining & retaining employment.

Requirements for the Workforce Investment Act Program for interested applicants are:

1. Must be unemployed for seven (7) days;

2. Must apply for a job at the unemployment office & bring the yellow card to the Employment & Training Office;

3. Must have applied for a job at three other places of employment;

4. Must bring a check stub if you were employed with a year. If you receive assistance, you must bring statement, award letter of other income verification;

5. Must bring original Social Security Card (signed) or printout from the Social Security Office;

6. Must bring Certificate Degree of Indian blood (C.D.I.B.) from enrollment office located at the Tribal Office. MAKE SURE THE SEAL IS ON THE C.D.I.B.;

7. All males between the ages of 18-26 must be registered with Selective Service & must bring proof of such;

8. Must bring proof of residence, such as face sheet, utility bill, rent receipt, Tribal I.D. card, voters registration, driver license, etc.

**Names must appear the same on all documents.*

Requirement forms can be picked up from our office Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Office is closed from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. for lunch.

Applications are taken Tuesday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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The CAYC members performed at Carthage Jr. High's Multicultural Awareness Day on Sept. 17.

The CAYC members performed at the Queen City Fair in Meridian on Sept. 28.

CAYC participate in the CCHS homecoming parade on Oct. 1.

A CAYC member performs community service.

CAYC news

The Chahta Alla Youth Council recently elected new officers to serve the council for the 2010-2011 school year. Elected were Caitlin Lilly (president), Sybranda Bell (vice-president), Taylor Allen (secretary), and Mahli Bell (reporter).

We would like to thank the fellow members for electing them into office. Under the new leadership, the group has done community service, raise money for members to attend UNITY and attend functions.

The group has done a tremendous amount of community service already. To raise money, they have been able to host dances after football games and food sales.

Some functions they have attended to perform our traditional Choctaw dances were a

..........continued next page

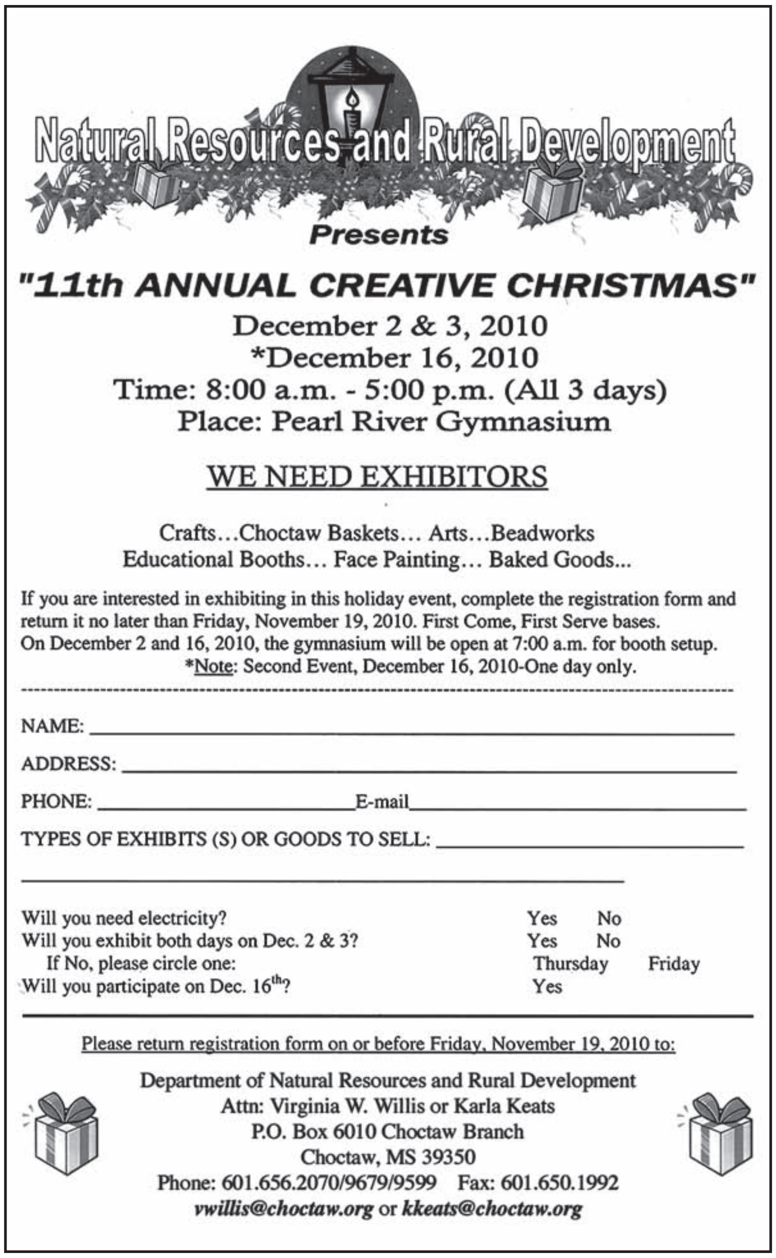
multicultural event at Carthage Junior High on Sept. 17 & the Queen City Fair on Sept. 28.

CAYC participated in the homecoming parade on October 1. They also hosted a homecoming dance after the football game to raise money.

On Oct. 9, they helped with the 14th Annual Diabetes Walk/Run and Kid's Day.

BACK
TO
HOME

The CAYC sponsored a homecoming dance on Oct. 1.



Natural Resources and Rural Development

Presents

"11th ANNUAL CREATIVE CHRISTMAS"

December 2 & 3, 2010
*December 16, 2010
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (All 3 days)
Place: Pearl River Gymnasium

WE NEED EXHIBITORS

Crafts…Choctaw Baskets… Arts…Beadworks
Educational Booths… Face Painting… Baked Goods...

If you are interested in exhibiting in this holiday event, complete the registration form and return it no later than Friday, November 19, 2010. First Come, First Serve bases.
On December 2 and 16, 2010, the gymnasium will be open at 7:00 a.m. for booth setup.
*Note: Second Event, December 16, 2010-One day only.

NAME: ______
ADDRESS: ______
PHONE: ______ E-mail ______
TYPES OF EXHIBITS (S) OR GOODS TO SELL: ______

Will you need electricity? Yes No
Will you exhibit both days on Dec. 2 & 3? Yes No
If No, please circle one: Thursday Friday
Will you participate on Dec. 16th? Yes

Please return registration form on or before Friday, November 19, 2010 to:

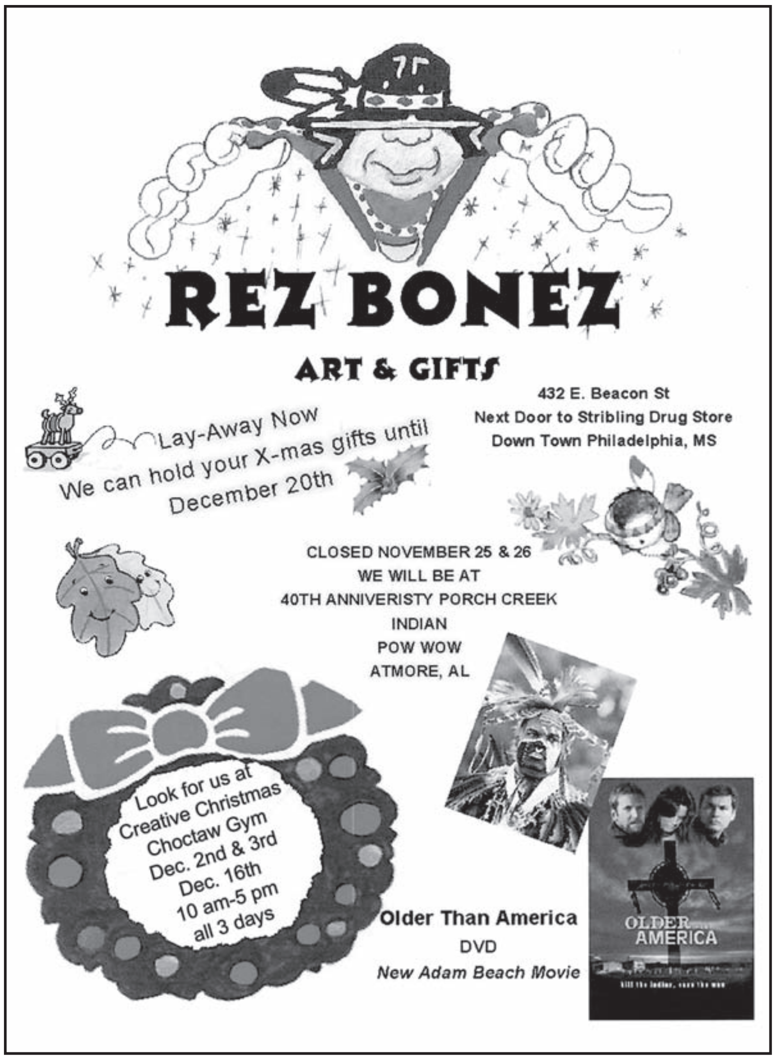
Department of Natural Resources and Rural Development
Attn: Virginia W. Willis or Karla Keats
P.O. Box 6010 Choctaw Branch
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601.656.2070/9679/9599 Fax: 601.650.1992
vwillis@choctaw.org or *kkeats@choctaw.org*

News from the YOP

The 2011 Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) summer applications will be available on Nov. 29, 2010, at the Y.O.P office. Summer employment positions under the Y.O.P will be open to individuals ages 15-25 (college students must be full-time). Space is very limited.

All applicants must have the following to complete an application:

- Birth certificate;
- Report card (overall average must be 80 & above);
- CDIB (enrolled MBCI member with at least 1/2 degree blood or higher);
- Social Security Card;
- Selective service card for males 18 years old and over;
- Current TB skin test.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40TH ANNIVERISTY PORCH CREEK
INDIAN
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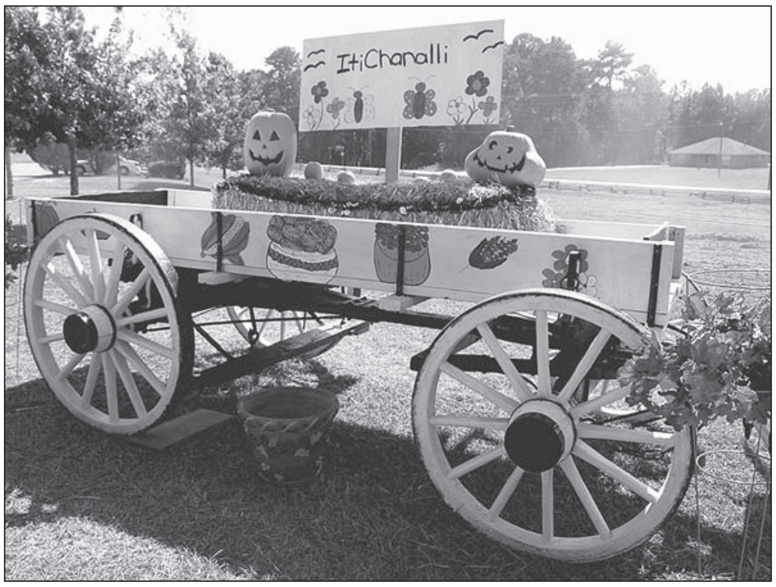
Look for us at
Creative Christmas
Choctaw Gym
Dec. 2nd & 3rd
Dec. 16th
10 am-5 pm
all 3 days
Older Than America
DVD
New Adam Beach Movie
OLDER AMERICA

Employees restore a wagon

The Department of Natural Resource would like to commend two individuals, Mrs. Earlene Frazier and Mrs. Vivian Ben for an exceptional job well done on a project that they ventured on several weeks back.

The two women restored an old wagon back from the grave as they replaced the bed and side railings of the wagon, along with a fresh new paint job and their own fall designs. The wagon has been placed in the front of the Farmers Market for people to observe and also for the upcoming Harvest Fest held by the program at the end of the month.

The staff would like to say, "Job Well Done" to these two women as they took on the project on their own intuition and worked hard on the wagon during their down time at work.


ItiChanalli

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Vivian Ben, left, & Earlene Frazier.

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Second Choctaw Wildlife event held

It was fun for the whole family as the 2nd Annual Choctaw Wildlife event was held Saturday, Sept. 25 at the Agriculture Center on Black Jack Road in the Pearl River Community.

Over 100 were in attendance for the free event. Guest speaker was Wildlife Specialist Bill Maily of the Mississippi State University Extension Service. His topic was on aging deer with jaw bones.

Fun activities for the kids included a fishing game, face painting, bb gun shoot, rabbit stick throw, hatchet throw, a youth archery shoot, lazer hunt, & a 3-D archery shoot.

After a luncheon, a ceremony was held to honor winners of the 2009-10 Tribal Big Buck Bounty. Placing first was Carl Isaac. Also placing were Cecil Joe (2nd), Julian Willis (3rd), James Denson (4th), Eli Sockey (5th), Jason Grisham (6th), Adam Joe (7th), Jamieson Williams (8th), Ferrell Thomas (9th), Henry Dixon Jr. (10th), & Jeremy Wesley (11th).

Bounty sponsors included Choctaw Tribal Council members Phyliss Anderson, Myrtle Ben, Dorothy Wilson, Peter Steve, Sammy Clemmons Jr., Doris Thompson, Troy Chickaway, Greg Shoemake, Ann Wesley, Kevin Edwards, Cyrus Ben, Lola Parkerson, Edward Wesley, Tribal Attorney General Don Kilgore, D&W Tire, KAE's Collection, Edwards Lawn Service, Beems Gun & Pawn, & Morton Construction.

Dept. of Natural Resources Director Jason Grisham assisted participants during the youth archery shoot.

A Wildlife & Parks officer helps participants during the bb gun shoot.

Big Bounty participants pose with their deer mounts & members of the Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department.

Pictured with their deer mounts are, from left, Carl Isaac (1st place), James Denson (4th place), Adam Joe (7th place), & Ferrell Thomas (9th place).

News from the MSU Extension Service

By Susan Cosgrove, Family Resource Management Area Extension Agent.
Submitted by Jim McAdory, Area Extension Agent for MBCI

TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

- Never carry your Social Security card in your wallet. This is considered the gateway to your identity. Leave it locked away at home or in a safe deposit box until you need it to conduct business.
- Check other cards that you normally carry in your wallet, as some of them may contain your SS number, too. Examples are your Medicare card, insurance cards, or even driver’s licenses.
- Put as little information as you can on your checks. Never put your Social Security number, & use a Post Office Box instead of a physical address if possible.
- Mailing bills from a U.S. Post Office location or box is safer than putting them out for the mailman at home. Identity thieves cruise neighborhoods looking for outgoing mail, knowing they are likely to find outgoing bill payments containing account numbers & other personal information.
- Do not have your new checks mailed to your home. Send them to your bank, instead. Identity thieves think they've hit the jackpot when they find a box of checks in a mailbox.
- Keeping charge receipts in your car is asking for trouble. Identity thieves would much rather have your personal account information than your car stereo.
- Photocopy both sides of all credit cards & keep this information in a safe place. If you lose your wallet, you'll have the account numbers & phone numbers at your fingertips.
- Protect yourself against loss by removing any card from your wallet that you don’t use on a daily basis. This way, if you have a theft, you won't have to notify as many entities.
- Report lost or stolen cards the moment you realize you are not in possession of the card. This will limit your liability.
- Review your bills & bank statements promptly. If you find any charges or debits that you never made, contact the bank or company immediately.
- Monitor your accounts online frequently. You can discover problems more quickly than if you wait for bills or statements to come in the mail.
- Secure personal information in your home, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having service work done in your home.
- Ask about information security procedures at your place of work. Find out who has access to your personal information, & verify that your records are kept in a secure location. Ask about the disposal procedures for those records as well.
- Keep private information to yourself. Never provide personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call. Remember, identity thieves are skilled professional liars, trained to sound legitimate & sincere.
- Shred everything. Don’t assume that simply because you put an item in the trash, no one will see it. That person you see dumpster diving could very well be an identity thief. Unless you want them to have your private information, shred, shred, shred.
- Consider a credit monitoring service. Such services watch your credit bureau activity, & alert you if someone tries to open an account in your name, attempt to change the mailing address for statements, & other such activities that could signal identity theft.
- Check your credit reports regularly. Credit reports can be obtained free of charge from each of the three major credit bureaus every 12 months by going to **www.annualcreditreport.com**, call 1-877-322-8228 or mail your request to Annual Credit Report Request, PO Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. Your name, address, Social Security number, & date of birth will be required. Staggering your requests among bureaus allows you to keep an eye on activity year-round.
- Be safe online. Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails; instead, type in a web address you know. Use firewalls, anti-spyware, & anti-virus software to protect your home computer; keep them up-to-date. Visit **OnGuardOnline.gov** for more information.
- Don’t use an obvious password like your birth date, your mother's maiden name, or the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Calls or letters about overdue accounts you don't recognize could indicate identity theft. If you are contacted by a creditor, ask for documentation about the debt; if by a collection agency, explain that you dispute the bill & why (put it writing to maintain your debt collection rights under federal law) & ask how to contact the creditor so you can investigate.
- Don’t use your debit card at the gas pump. Thieves can use a technique called skimming to steal your PIN number & then pull cash from your bank account. Using a credit card is safer.

IDENTITY THEFT TRAVEL TIPS
For the Business or Vacation Traveler

Whether you travel for business or pleasure, a traveler must be on the alert for opportunities that an identity thief may try to take advantage of in any given situation. Unfortunately you cannot trust anyone you meet (housekeeping staff, bellmen, security guards, front desk clerks, etc) with your personal information.

The following items have been contributed by the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) staff, many of whom travel for business or pleasure:

1. Checks - Leave checkbooks & checks at home, in a locked safe. Checking account takeover is one of the hardest types of financial fraud to clear up. Too many people leave checkbooks in suitcases or use checks for purchases in stores where they don’t know the clerks. ITRC recommends that you use cash, traveler’s checks or credit cards for purchases.

2. Payment Cards - When traveling, tourists are generally in unfamiliar places & tend to have their guard down - after all they are on vacation - & may not realize they are victims when a crime takes place or know what to do once it happens. Criminals are aware of this & will target victims in locations that have a lot of transient people moving through.

3. Keep a close eye on your cards - Pay attention to anyone you give your payment card to when making a transaction. Make sure the card always stays in your sight if possible. In some cases someone might try to 'skim' the magnetic stripe card data or possibly switch the card with another card that looks similar.

4. Securing local currency - ATMs are a great way to get cash in the local currency. The exchange rates are generally better than you will find elsewhere. However, criminals will target ATMs by installing devices that capture the magnetic stripe from the back of the card & capture your PIN.

5. ATM Safety

Be aware of ATMs that -

- Look poorly maintained, in disrepair or positioned out of sight in a retail environment - legitimate operators want people to use their ATMs & will highlight the fact that an ATM is available & monitor & maintain it.
- Do not have sufficient lighting or basic physical security. You want to be able to see everything around the ATM as you approach it & be seen by others at the ATM.
- Has anything unusual, crooked or pieces falling from the card reader area or PIN pad. It can be very difficult for a professional to spot some of the devices criminals use today, but there have been many cases where consumers have detected these devices on ATMs. So take a

see IDENTITY TIPS, pg. 22

IDENTITY TIPS

continued from page twenty one

look for anything unusual on the machine itself.

• Has any kind of sign with unusual directions, such as entering your PIN multiple times - this is for a criminal to surf your PIN when you enter it. They can then pick pocket your card.

• Has anyone hanging around the vicinity of the ATM - again either surfing the PIN or waiting until the cash comes out to distract you & snatch it.

While using an ATM -

• If someone gets too close to you or comes over to 'help' you, stop your transaction especially if your card is stuck & they tell you all you have to do is enter your PIN several times & the card will come out. In these cases the criminal has most likely slipped a device in the ATM to catch the card - a.k.a. card trapping. Just say 'no thank you' & walk away.

• Your card gets stuck, immediately leave the area & contact your financial institution to alert them.

• Your cash does not dispense, but you have a receipt stating that it has, immediately leave the area & contact your financial institution, a criminal may have installed a device over the cash dispenser to capture the cash - a.k.a. cash trapping.

5. Cover your pin - Whenever you are entering your PIN, cover it with your free hand. This will make it difficult for criminals to capture your PIN visually or with a camera.

6. Verify the ATM - There are resources on the Internet where you can look up ATMs in your location as well as smart phone apps that can direct you to ATMs.

7. Carry cash when traveling abroad - In some countries using Chip & PIN, such as the UK, U.S. travelers have experienced issues using their magnetic stripe cards in certain situations, so having a little extra cash is a good thing.

8. Chip & PIN cards - If your financial institution does not offer Chip & PIN cards, get a prepaid Chip & PIN card for purchases at unattended terminals such as parking garages, gas pumps & public transportation ticket booths.

9. Leave bills at home - Business travelers often take advantage of quiet evenings in hotels to catch up with bookkeeping & paying bills. Unfortunately many people have access to your room while you are at meetings and victims have reported that account information & check information has been stolen this way.

10. Hotel safes - ITRC highly recommends that you lock up all valuables in room safes or hotel safes while you are out of your room. That includes laptops, PDAs, jewelry, passports, & other documents that contain personal identifying information or that would be of interest to a thief. A suitcase is not a secure way to lock up information. You might return to your room to find the suitcase has been picked open or stolen.

11. Pickpockets, fanny packs and travel pouches - Pickpockets can be found in most major cities & tend to focus on high traffic areas that attract business or vacation travelers. Some studies indicate that wallets stolen in tourist spots frequently lead to identity theft. These professionals aren't interested in cash. They want your SSN, checks and driver's license.

Thieves depend on the fact that you are not paying attention to anything but what you are doing. In fact, they may cause distractions (as a team) - using animals, flower vendors, children, or even asking for directions. Vacation travelers should use fanny packs (preferably ones that open with a Velcro fastener and not a zipper) or travel pouches that are worn inside your shirt to carry important documents.

Business travelers should be aware that pickpockets are also looking for laptops & PDAs that are temporarily out of your control at airports, in lobbies & in dining areas. You’d be surprised at how many rushed business travelers leave the security area having forgotten these items. Remember, out of sight means out of control. A good pickpocket can remove a wallet from a tight pair of jeans without you being aware of the theft, especially the back pocket. They may travel in pairs & watch where you put it long before you know you are even a target.

12. Wallets - Don’t take anything in your wallet that is not absolutely necessary. Leave all cards with Social Security numbers on them at home. If necessary, make a photocopy of a health insurance card cut off the last 4 numbers of the Social Security number & carry that with you. Make sure that you have an emergency phone number (contact person) for medical personnel to use. That person would have the last 4 numbers of your Social Security number plus any pertinent medical history including prescriptions that you take. It goes without saying - never leave your wallet unattended even for a second.

13. Shoulder surfers - Besides pickpockets, identity thieves take advantage of people via shoulder surfing. “Shoulder Surfing” used to only apply to those who looked “over your shoulder” to see information. With the common use of cell phones, we forget that we are in a public venue & may talk about things that a thief can use. In other words - if you wouldn’t want to see it on a billboard, don’t talk about it on a cell phone in public. That includes personal information as well as company proprietary information.

14. Public computers & public Wi-Fi - Never use an Internet café computer to check your email, do online banking, or enter any personal information such as your payment card information. Internet café computers have been used by many people & likely have malware on them. Compromising your email & account credentials could let a hacker get into your online banking account by resetting the password. Entering sensitive information when using a public Wi-Fi connection can also place your information at risk. Make sure to use an encrypted Internet connection when completing any of the above tasks.

15. Bluetooth - Ensure your Bluetooth devices such as your cell phone & computer are configured for safety when traveling. Pair your device in a private location & make the connection permanent. Put your Bluetooth devices in non-discoverable mode - this means that they will not be identified by other Bluetooth devices in the area which could try to connect to it by accident or to purposely access your information or conversations. And of course do not pair to unknown Bluetooth devices.

16. Back-up material - carry photocopies of all travel documents including plane tickets, hotel reservations & passports. Keep these in a separate location from the originals.

17. Mail - Put your mail on “postal hold” stating that for a period of time you wish to have your mail held at the post office. We prefer that term rather than “vacation hold” so that postal clerks will not know that you will be gone. Make arrangements so that mail may only be picked up by you, & that your

..........continued next page

Report illegal dump site locations &
environmental concerns to:
The Office of Environmental Protection
ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE
601-663-7510
Please leave a detailed message including a description of items found, the location of the dump site and any additional comments as needed.

driver's license or ID card (with photo & current address) must be shown to receive the mail.

18. Newspapers - Nothing says “we’re out of town” more than a pile of newspapers. Don’t forget to stop delivery until you return. Also stop any other automatic deliveries, such as bottled water.

19. Contact your local Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP), if one is available, to see if they do courtesy house checks. If so, coordinate with them to do a courtesy drive by while you are gone.

20. Neighbors, relatives and house-sitters - While we would like to trust everyone, unfortunately statistics show that 9-14 percent of all identity theft victims who find out who the imposter is, discovers that it is someone they knew. If you have someone that is going to check the house & has a key to your house, then lock up any documents with account numbers or Social Security numbers. You wouldn’t leave an expensive diamond ring or lots of cash out; follow those same guidelines when it comes to information an identity thief can use.

21. Public restrooms - Ladies, do not hang your purse from a hook on the door. It is too easy for someone to reach over the top of the door & take it before you have time to react. The best place to store your purse while in the restroom is beside you or hung around your body.

The bottom line - if you suspect that a scam may be in progress, trust your intuition. It probably is.

Other Resources: We recommend that you check out **www.BobArno.com/BATA**. Bob is a world-renowned expert on pickpockets & does training classes for law enforcement around the world, especially in tourist areas & for special events such as Super Bowls & Olympics. His newest book, Travel Advisory!, goes into detail about how to avoid theft, cons & street scams while traveling. It is excellent for anyone who travels a lot, especially in crowds or in Europe.

Check List

Before you Leave

- Go through your wallet, purse and/or briefcase & remove any of the following items prior to travel:
  - Social Security card
  - Checkbook & deposit slips
  - Birth certificate
  - Credit card receipts
  - Library card
  - Video rental card
  - Bills
  - Extra Credit Cards

- Write down all the phone numbers from the back of your payment cards & keep them somewhere other than your wallet or purse - in case they are lost or stolen.
- Provide your financial institutions with up-to-date contact information, including cell phone number.
- Advise your financial institution that you will be leaving the country so that they will be able to better assist you if you need help from afar. Minimize the number of credit cards in your wallet. No more than two.
- Place all the removed items above into a locked safe.
- Pay bills before you go out of town.
- Place mail on “postal hold” with the Post Office. Arrange so mail may only be picked up by you & request that identification must be shown to receive held mail.
- Stop delivery of newspapers or any other items you may normally have delivered (water, automatically scheduled deliveries of products, etc).
- Make copies of your itinerary, passport data page, visas & driver’s license to leave with designated emergency contact.
- Notify a neighbor to watch your house. Let them know you are not moving.

During Your Travel

- Lock up all your valuables in room safe or hotel safe while you are out of the room. (This includes jewelry, laptops, passports & any other important documents).
- Heighten your awareness

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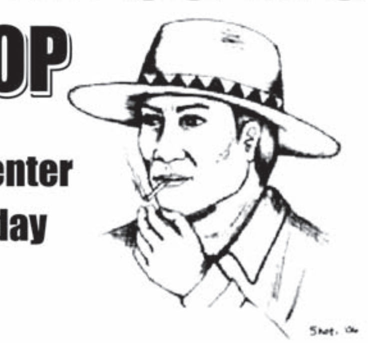

105 Choctaw Town Center
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T. Ellis Studio
Vince O. Nickey Photography

Offering Fine Photography Services
Ranging from Children Portraits, Family Portraits, Senior Portraits, Special Events, Sporting Events.
We Specialize Exclusively in Weddings, Engagements.
Various Package Prices Available to Meet Your Very Special Occasions.

For more information on pricing or appointments, send questions to vince.nickey@yahoo.com

IDENTITY TIPS .... continued from page twenty three

of people & crowds around you - pickpockets thrive in most major cities.

- Be on the lookout for ATMs that looked like they have been tampered with.
- Cover your PIN when using ATMs. This will make it difficult for criminals to capture your PIN visually or with a camera.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times - shoulder surfing is a viable method of obtaining personal information when you least suspect it.
- Don't take anything in your wallet that is not absolutely necessary.
- Do not place purse, belongings or purchases on the floor in a public restroom. Also, do not hang these items on the hook on the door. It is also recommended that you not leave your purse on the floor or on an empty chair.

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TOWN CENTER

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APPLICATIONS AND GUIDELINES CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL DEESANDRA BEN @ 601-650-1612.

Need Auto Insurance?

Multi-Vehicle Discounts... SR 22
Safe Driver Discounts

Come in for your free quote or call 601-663-0971
300 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 106
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)

Pearl River
Insurance Agency

HOURS:
Monday-Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday
By Appointment Only

AGENTS:
AMY Y. SIERRA
LETICIA C. RANGEL

TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Identity theft is a problem any time of the year. While consumers are focused on giving during the holidays, the crooks are focused on taking. Having your access to credit suspended or compromised during the largest shopping season of the year puts a damper on anyone's good cheer.

- **Have a constant awareness of your surroundings.** The sidewalks & malls will be crowded, & shoppers will be distracted, the perfect combination for a pick-pocket. If someone bumps into you, don't assume it was an accident. Clutch your purse close to your side or in front of you, & keep your wallet hidden at the bottom, or for men, in an inside coat pocket.
- **Don't carry large sums of cash.** If you choose not to charge your purchases, using a debit card may be right for you. Be aware, however, that certain protections are put in place when you make a purchase with a credit card that is not provided with a debit card. This is a good time of year to call your credit card issuer & become familiar with that perk. Further, when you use a credit card, you can dispute a purchase before paying for it. With a debit card, the money is removed from your account at the time of the purchase. A thief can wipe out your checking or savings account before you ever realize the theft has taken place.
- **Guard your PIN number at the ATM.** If you choose to pay with cash, yet do not want to carry large amounts of money on your person, it is likely that you'll be making frequent trips to the ATM. Be aware of anyone lurking around the machine, & if someone is standing too close to you, simply ask them to step back. However, people aren't your only concern at the ATM. Thieves can install devices that read your information without you knowing it. If you notice anything unusual about the ATM, use a different one, & report what you've seen to the bank.
- **Don't let your credit card out of your sight.** Unscrupulous clerks or waiters can skim the information from your card into a second machine & later make a new credit card for themselves. Worse yet, they can sell your information to an organized crime ring.
- **Reconcile your receipts when dining out.** Incidents have been reported of waiters increasing their tip amounts by adding numbers or decimal places to receipts. Check to make sure your receipts match up with your bank statements.
- **Lighten your wallet.** Remove anything from your wallet that you don't absolutely need to have with you. That way, if someone is successful in stealing it, they won't get as much.
- **Be safe when shopping online.** Criminals can make dummy websites look like the real thing. Make sure that the website you are shopping on is the company's real website. If you have any doubt, conduct a new browser search & contact the company to verify. Also make sure that any website you make purchases on is secure. Secure websites will have “https” instead of “http” in the website URL.
- **Never carry your Social Security card with you, but check other cards that might use your SS# as an identifier.** If you're not going to be using your checkbook, leave it in a safe place at home.
- **Make copies of your credit cards.** Copy both sides of all your cards. If you lose your wallet, you'll have easy access to all of your account numbers & Customer Service phone numbers, allowing you to alert the issuer immediately.
- **Keep up with all receipts.** Not only will you need them to make returns easily, but crooks are very interested in stealing the information they contain. Never stuff the receipts into your car visor or leave them exposed in any way. Thieves would much rather have your receipts than any gifts you've purchased.
- **Open your credit card statements as soon as they arrive.** Check the bill for any unauthorized purchases. Even better, keep a watchful eye on your accounts by going online & reviewing your accounts each week. If you notice anything out of the ordinary, report it immediately to your bank. Doing so will likely remove any payment responsibility you might have for fraudulent purchases.
- **Secure all personal information even while at home.** Unfortunately, many times an identity thief is someone we know. During the holidays, you may have

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guests in your home. Remove temptation by putting personal information out of sight.

- **Consider signing up for a credit monitoring service.** Such services alert you via email anytime there is an inquiry or other activity to your credit report. In other words, if someone tries to open an account in your name, you'll know about it. Such services are offered by all of the major credit reporting bureaus, & could be money well-spent.

- **Be careful when logging in from the road.** Never use an internet café computer to check your email, do online banking, or enter any personal information such as your payment card information. Internet café computers have been used by many people and likely have malware in them. Compromising your email & account credentials could let a hacker get into your online banking site by resetting the password. Entering sensitive information when using a public Wi-Fi connection can also place your information at risk. Make sure to use an encrypted internet connection before completing any of the above tasks listed above.

- **Order your credit report.** To obtain a free credit report from the three credit reporting agencies go to **www.annualcreditreport.com**. You can also order a copy by going to **myFICO.com**.

(Source: http://www.protectyouridnow.org/index.cfm)

In Memory

MICHEAL KEITH FRAZIER

Funeral services for Michael Keith Frazier, 30, were held Wednesday, October 13, 2010, from the John Memorial Methodist Church in Carthage. The Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Red Water Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Frazier passed away at his residence on Oct. 9.

He worked at the Silver Star Casino and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Frances & Devin Mitch & Silmon & Sadie Vaughn; grandparents, Alma Mitch Frazier, Frazier Frazier & Linnie Vaughn Frazier; four aunts; three uncles; two great-aunts; & five great-uncles.

Survivors include his mother, Abbie Lewis of Carthage; father, David Frazier Sr. of Forest City, Ark.; a sister, Megan Frazier of Carthage; four brothers, David Frazier Jr., Emelio Frazier, both of Philadelphia, Devin Lewis, & Mitchell Frazier, both of Carthage; six aunts; five uncles; a great-aunt; two great-uncles; & a host of relatives & friends.

ALMA LEE BELL

Funeral services for Alma Lee Bell, 63, were held Saturday, October 16, 2010, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. The Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

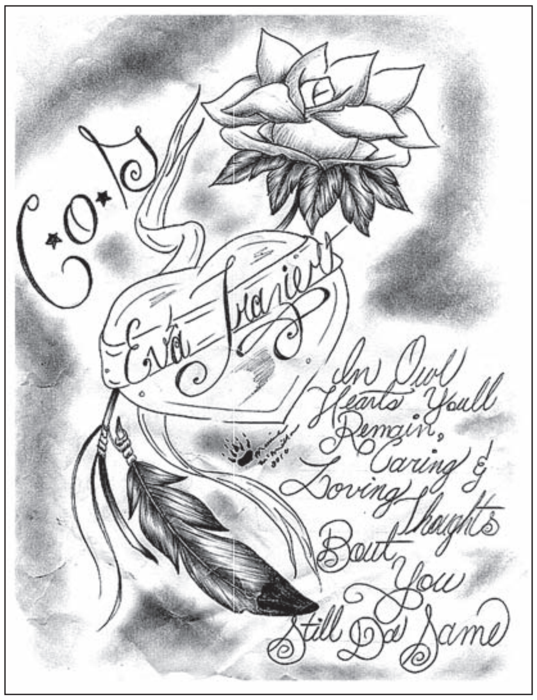
Burial was in the Isaac Cemetery in Choctaw. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Bell passed away Oct. 13 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed making Choctaw shirts and dresses. She was employed with American Greetings.

She was preceded in death by her father, George Tubby; mother, Mary Willis Tubby; brother, George Thomas Tubby; two sisters, Annie Lee Comby & Sarah Tubby; four nieces; two nephews; & a grandchild.

Survivors include two sons, Clifton Ray Jefferson of Walnut Grove & William Corey Jefferson of Choctaw; two brothers, Presley Tubby & Curley Tubby, both of Choctaw; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.


C★O★TY
Eva Frazier
In Our Hearts You'll Remain, Caring & Loving Thoughts Bout You Still Da Same

MEMORIES OF COTY LASHANE FARMER

At three years old, you gave me a name that I will always be proud to carry & that is "Dad." While you were growing up, when you were going to ask me a question or tell me something you always said, "Hey Dad." Oh, how I miss those words.

On June 7, 2009, you were taken away from us. It was the deepest pain I have ever known. The day of your funeral was the hardest & saddest day of my life. Every evening, to watch the sun go down, brings a fresh pain & memory of you because it was the time of day you returned home to the family. You always walked in with a smile for the family, a hug for Mom, Haylin & Syd, followed by a "Hey Dad" for me. You were number one in my book & still are number one in my heart.

I never thought you or your sister would like to dance in pow-wows, but after the Poarch Creek Pow-Wow every time I practiced the inter-tribal songs you were there practicing your dance too. Your mom made you a pretty cap & apron with long red fringe. When you put on your dancing regalia, you were so handsome & proud. It did not matter if the beat was fast or slow; it was as if you were one with the song. Your favorite style was fast & into the Crow Hop. When you & your sisters competed in the dance competition, you always placed first or second, never third. At the Little Acre Pow-Wow, R.J. Harris honored you with two eagle feathers for dance style.

I could always count on your to help with inter-tribal songs & drum competitions. Together we won three drum competitions & after each win, you would jump up with a big smile on your face & hug me. It is as if I still feel your arms in those hugs & see your smile.

I had to leave the drums for five years because of my accident. When I recovered, we planned to start a new drum group but we did not quite make it because now you have gone to heaven. The songs we were going to practice, I am still going to sing - I will sing them for you. Who knows, we might even start a pow-wow up in heaven.

Love, Dad

Come join us.....

Sunday
10:00 am

Wednesday
6:30 pm

Spirit of Life Christian Center

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Pastor Thomas Ben

601-389-5446
Visit us on the web at:
SPIRITOFLIFECHOCTAW.ORG

FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Is Celebrating their 9th Anniversary

Where: Faith Missionary Baptist Church
Just off Hwy. 16 on 149
When: November 12-14, 2010
Time: Friday & Saturday at 6:00 pm
Sunday at 10:00 am
Everyone is Invited to Attend!!

Charlie completes investigator training

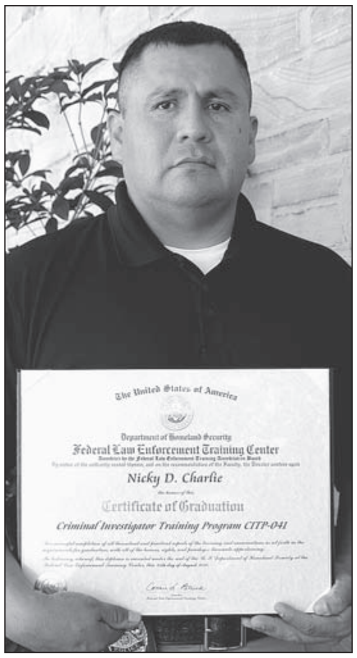
The Choctaw Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division is proud to announce the successful completion & graduation of Mr. Nicky Charlie at the Criminal Investigator Training Program at Glynco, Georgia.

Charlie started the 12-week training in June 2010 through August 2010. Some agencies consider the investigator training as special agent training.

Charlie was trained on how to put together a continuing case where evidence, witnesses & information were gathered to submit to mock federal court at the end of the training. He was also subjected to firearms, use of force, handcuffing, baton, driving, physical fitness, crime scene, flying armed, & academics, to mention a few.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) is a component of the Department Homeland Security & the Federal government's focal point for training law enforcement personnel. The FLETC provides basic police & criminal investigator training for officers & agents of its partner organizations, as well as advanced training that are common to two or more organizations.

This certification is one of many completed by Charlie during the course of his law enforcement career here at Choctaw. The Criminal Investigations Division congratulates Investigator Charlie for his accomplishment.


The United States of America
Department of Homeland Security
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Nicky D. Charlie
Certificate of Graduation
Criminal Investigator Training Program CITP-041

Investigator Nicky Charlie

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 16th Birthday to Dayna Nickey on Nov. 28, from Dad in Greenwood. I love you.

Happy Belated Birthday to Zoe Bell on Oct. 6.

Happy Birthday to Matt "Cheech" Bell on Nov. 3 & Dana Briscoe on Nov. 27.

Happy Belated Birthday in Sept. to Duane & Deanna & Happy Belated Birthday to our special little baby girl, Dallaray Shoemake, from mommy, daddy, grandma, your sisters, uncles, & cousins. Also to my baby boys in Nov. Happy Birthday to Brandon Dixon. I miss you son. Happy Belated Birthday to my grandbaby, Nuseka Dixon. I love you both & Happy Birthday to my mother, Ruby Mae John. We love you mom, from your family.

Happy Belated Birthday to my wife, Julie Shoemake. Also, Happy Belated Birthday to my daughter, Dallaray Dixon, from dad.

Happy Belated Birthday to Shelanie Frazier. Sister, you're growing up too fast. Have a good birthday sister gurl! Love you - Mary.

Happy Belated Birthday to our grandmother, Elizabeth Anderson. I don't know how old you are, but have a great day on your birthday on Oct. 14. - Mary... Also, Happy 6th Birthday to "Sai-Sai"Sailor. Love you always, from your family.

Happy 3_? Birthday to Richard Ben. Don't over do it - Mary.

Happy Belated 6th Birthday to Elaine "Pookie" Tubby, from Leslie, Josh, Sharron, & Omarion... Happy Birthday to my grandma, Elizabeth Anderson, on Oct. 14 & Happy Birthday to Sailor J. on Oct. 15, from Leslie, Josh, Sharron, Omarion, & Mary.

Happy Belated Birthday to our dad, Mason Mingo, on Sept. 3 & Mariah Martin on Sept. 7. Love, Alley, Chase & Jr.

Happy Belated Birthday to Curtis Chapman on Oct. 13, Cora Chapman on Oct. 8, Todd Chapman on Aug. 27, & to Jessica Smith on Sept. 17. From Riah, Chase, Abbie, & Alley.

Happy 14th Birthday to our son, Ziahay, on Oct. 4. We love you, from Dave & Mom, Tay, Reanna, & Trae... Happy Birthday to our wonderful aunt, Pat Buffington, on Oct. 30. With lots of love from Dave, Janet & kids, & your loving nephew, Bryant Henry. We love you Aunt Pat!

Happy Belated Birthday to Danny Ray on Sept. 19 & Rodney Ray, Jr. on Sept. 26. We love you both, from Grandma & Grandpa Morris.

To my sweet beautiful little girl, Katrina A. McMillan, on her birthday Nov. 8, 2010. You are going to be 5 & many more years to come. Love you always, from your dad, Raphael Sr., aunties, uncles, & sisters.

Belated Happy Birthday to my baby love, love Phyllis on Oct. 10, 2010, 47 years & many more years to come. God bless you & take care - R. McMillan & the family.

Happy 39th Birthday to my dad, Rodney Ray Sr., on Oct. 9, from Relissia Ray.

Happy 5th Birthday to Destini Keenae Tubby on Oct. 11, from Mom, Darisa, Jr, Jaylyn, Alex Bell, Karla Sanchez, Neveah Kayzlynn Robinson, Grandma, Grandpa, aunt, & uncle. May your wish come true.

Happy Belated Birthday to my wonderful kids - Damien Craig Vaughn on Aug. 24, Taylor Danielle Vaughn on Aug. 20, Sadie Ann Vaughn on Sept. 20, & Julian Craig Vaughn on

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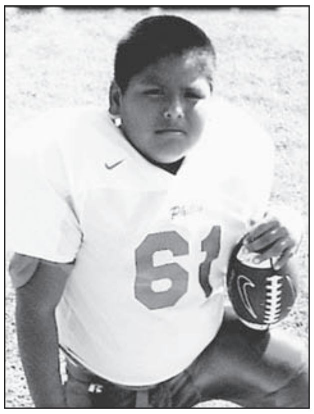
Happy Belated 19th Birthday to Miss Kelley 'Kenae' Sockey on Oct. 30. Lots of love from Mom, Andrew, Shena, Riley, & the rest of the family & friends.



Happy 9th Birthday Quindon John on Nov. 13!

From Dad, Tanner Wade, Katelyn, Blake, Shenise, Nay Nay, & the rest of your family in P.R. & B.C. Good luck in the rest of the season in the Philly youth football league.

Sept. 2. We love you very much, from Michelle (Tita) Denson & your mom & dad Julie & Merrill Vaughn... And to Erica Lynn Fraizer (Denson) on Aug. 24, Brianna Denson on Aug. 31, Larissa Willis on Aug. 31, Marie Denson on Sept. 14, & to Arisa Willis on Oct. 21, from Emery & Erica Denson... Also, Happy Belated Birthday to Ladanian "Danger" Tubby on Aug. 13, from David & Erica Tubby & rest of the Denson Family.

Happy 6th Birthday to my brother, Sailor James Frazier. I love you big boy. Have a great birthday, love from Mary & Germie... Also, Happy Belated Birthday to my loving brother & sister, Jerry Lee Frazier Jr. & Angela Marie Frazier. I miss ya'll so much - Mary... I love you Germie Williams. It's been 3 years we've been together. I'm so happy to be with you. Hey mom & dad, I love ya'll. Also, don't think that I don't - Mary.

Wishing a Happy 21st Birthday to the TWINS SUMMER & CLINTON! "May the Good Lord bless you & keep you; May the Lord make his face shine upon you & be gracious to you; May the Lord turn his face toward you & give you peace." From your loved ones.

Happy Birthday to Mr. Arthur Lee Farmer on Nov. 9. From your son, Henry C., & family.

To my beautiful girls... Everyday with you is a special day. We love you. HAPPY 13TH BIRTHDAY to Vinshayden Kiana Smith on Nov. 19 & HAPPY 12TH BIRHTDAY to Rozlind Mystical Smith on Nov. 7, from mom, Sal, your brother, sisters, & the rest of the family.

Happy Birthday to Sarah Williams on Nov. 11. Enjoy your birthday. Love, Craig & Sandra.

Happy Birthday to these people that we love & cherish so much - Zula Mae Jim on Nov. 4, Vandia Lewis on Nov. 11 & Peter Sockey on Nov. 7. From Juice, Sheila & family.

Happy 33rd Birthday to Jared Jaye Jim (a.k.a. Phat Baby). I pray that you have many more blessed birthdays. On Nov. 2, an angel appeared on earth. That angel was you. This comes from a person that cares & loves you deeply. Love always, Domonick B. Grant (a.k.a. Pop-Korn).

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Latina A. Hall on Nov. 1, from Dad, Steph, Mina, & Justin. Mina said Happy Birthday Sister & to come get her so she can live with ya'll in Florida.

Happy Belated Birthdays to Deelenna Wallace on Oct. 4, Tomechi Bell on Oct. 5 & Kenneth Wallace on Oct. 8, from your family in B.C.

Happy Belated 13th Birthday to our baby girl, Tiara Shanteal Elise Joe (a.k.a. Shorty), on Oct. 17. She celebrated her birthday with her family & friends. Stay Sweet Pretty! Love always, Mom, Dad, Bran, Kayla, Jr., Aven, & the Sams.

Happy Belated 22nd Birthday to Lil Brewski Steve Shoemake from Vur, Big Dude, Southside King Steve, Tawn, Sky, Mr. B, & rest of the crew. Hope you enjoyed it "okshowanni."... Happy Belated Birthday to Big Dude Steve, from chi wifey for lifey Kim & the rest of the crew - Vur, Lil Brewski, Mr. B, Tawn, Sky, Steve, & Mr. Southside King Steve... Happy Birthday to my lil boy Keaton Dupree Jefferson on Oct. 23. I love you baby boy always. Love from your mom "Vur."

Happy Birthday to Mr. Keaton Dupree on Oct. 23, from your cuzin Boi, Daedae, Yates Shoemake & to Mrs. Vera Ann & Jonathan Ryan Steve. Love always from all your family & friendz in C-Town & Town.

Happy Birthday to Rick Shaun Isaac on Nov. 10 & to John Edward Willis III on Nov. 16. Rick will be 5 & John will be 9. With lots of love from my mom, dad, sisters, Bethany, Melody, Linda & Olivia & brother, Maverick in OK.

Happy Birthday to Monte "Money" Farve on Nov. 21, love always from your mom, Linda, sisters Chris & Shonie, nieces, nephews, & Chinese... Happy Birthday to our BB Osi, Montraz Billy, on Nov. 25. Love from Mamo Chickaway, Auntie Chris, Moshi Monte, Mom & Dad, Sisters & Brother.

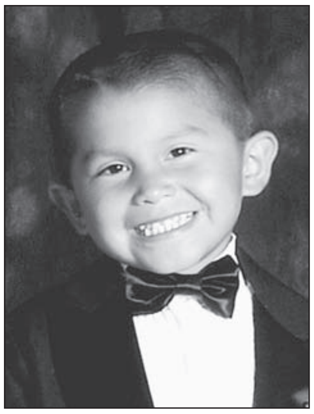
Happy Thanksgiving to my mom & dad, sisters & brothers, nieces & nephews, Grandma Chickaway, aunts & uncles, & friends. "HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU ALL & LOVE YA'LL ALOTS!" From Chrisinda C. Jefferson.

Happy 2nd Anniversary to our parents, Janet & David Frazier, on Sept. 19, 2010, with much love from Tay, Ziahay, Reanna, Trae, & Kaylee.

Happy 35th Wedding Anniversary on Oct. 9 to Papo Jimmy & Grandma Betty Morris. From Relissia Ray.

PICTURED RIGHT

Happy 6th Birthday to Peyton R. Willis on Nov. 1, 2010. With love from your big brother Monty, Mom, Dad, Uncles Jeremy & Daryl, Auntie Becky, & the rest of the family.



Happy 12th Birthday to Deric Sam Jr. on Nov. 17. Love you, from your Auntie Nellie Sam.

Happy 16th Birthdays Boys on Oct. 4 & Nov. 1!

Happy 34th Birthday to our Daddy, Adam Joe Sr., on Nov. 16, with lots of love from DA JOES, BRAN, KAYLA, SHORTY, JR., AVEN, & the Sams, also from your wife. Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to our son, Michael J. Tullos, who turns 21 on Nov. 24. With all our love, Mom (Tanya) & Dad (Willis).

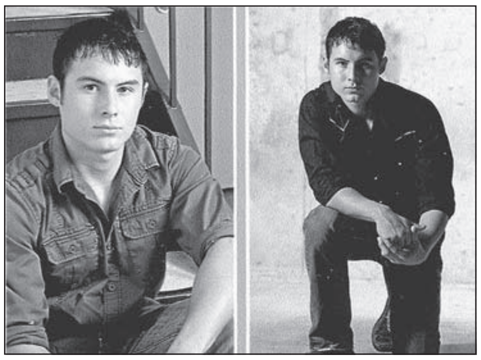
Happy 10th Birthday to Averii Cotton, from your sissy, Aubree Cotton.

Happy Birthday to two special persons. Happy 1st Birthday to Channing on Oct. 12 & Happy 3rd Birthday to Treylon on Oct. 24. We wish you many more & may God bless you two. Love always from your mommies & mamo.

Happy Birthday to my children I love so much - Ramona Allatik Osi on Oct. 12, Diaz Moore on Nov. 17 & Elygin Xavier on Dec. 30. I thank God for such a wonderful blessing for giving me a privilege to be a mother! From your mom, Leah I love you always...Happy Birthday from the Moore family & relatives.

JAIZLIANNA SENNIMEN BEN & ASPEN SAGE WESLEY

God blessed our family through His everlasting love. Two precious and pretty little girls - full of hugs & kisses. Laughter & smiles they bring from above. Happiness in our lives & a brighter world fulfills our wishes. We love you Senni & Appy - God's Little Angels. HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY on Oct. 29 & HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY on Nov. 29. From Lil'Momma Jazz, Mom Whit, Dad Kent, Brother Gage, & Grandparents Jesse & JoAnne Ben.



Happy Belated Birthday to Zachery McMillan on Sept. 26. Zach is the 19 year-old son of Eric McMillan of Oklahoma City, Okla. His paternal grandmother is Rubye Farve McMillan of Ardmore, Okla. His grandfather is the late Theodore (Ted) McMillan, formally of the Pearl River Community. We, the family of Zach, wish him the very best as he embarks on his life as a U.S. Marine. We are proud & honored that he has chosen to be a Marine. He will graduate on Dec. 3, 2010, from Marine Corps boot camp. May God be with you each & everyday. May He lead you on your journey & bring you safely back. Our thoughts & prayers will always be with you. With love from your grandmother, uncle, aunts, great-aunts, & uncles from Mississippi.

-Rubye McMillan, Bryan McMillan, Katrina McMillan, Regina & Phoenix Lynn, Virginia & Richard Keams, Judith & Joseph Wesley, Sylvia Wesley, Lola & Terry Parkerson, Ursula & Aaron York, Richard McMillan, & Karen McMillan

HUNDLEY RECEIVES MASTER'S DEGREE FROM BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

Congratulations to Angela Hundley on your achievement on obtaining your Master's Degree in Management. We are so proud of you. You set your goal & followed through, even though it was tough. Way to go Mom! We love you! And Happy Birthday on Oct. 12. With lots of love from Justin, Trent, Sunshine, Angel, & the rest of the family.

Choctaw
Community
News

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ABOVE, *Happy Birthday to our beautiful & wonderful daughters on Nov. 23, Nika D. Sockey (14) & Tikeshia Patrice McMillan (12). Yall make us so proud of who yall are & all you've become. I hope yall have the beautiful kind of day yall deserve for being such wonderful people. Love yall both always, from your Mom Sheila & Daddy Juice.*

LEFT, Happy Birthday to my Tik Chi, Sheila Billy, on Nov. 7. Sometimes I may neglect to show how much it means to have your love, but I hope you know that you're my one & only & in everything I do! My greatest happiness is our marriage, our life, our love, our kids, & you! I love you Baby! Love from your husband, Juice.

Happy Belated 2nd
Birthday to Deshane
A. Lovato Steve on
Sept. 5, 2010.
Parents are Gavin
Steve & Andrea
Lovato.

As we sit here watching you play & thinking back to that special day when we saw your face for the very first time. Staring into those beautiful brown eyes, that soft black hair, perfect lil nose, fingers & toes. We watched you grow bigger & stronger everyday, I would not have my life any other way. You were smiling & laughing, crawling now walking. Growing so fast, soon you'll be talking. It makes us happy just to see you smile or to hold you in my arms for a little while. There will be a day when you're grown & this baby stuff will be done. But we will always remember the day when you became our son & we will always love you no matter what. Happy Birthday.